A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

June 4th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 22 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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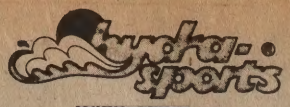

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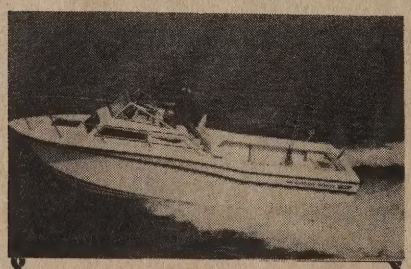

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EDITORIAL

LEGISLATION WILL END VIOLENCE

On May 5, 1981, State Senator Owen Johnson introduced Senate Bill S.6176. The introduction of this legislation represents the immediate culmination of many months of work by the Senator's office and The Long Island Fisherman. The Bill intends to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to commercial fishing adjacent to Long Island State Park lands.

For some time now, The Long Island Fisherman, the Long Island State Parks Commission, a host of recreational fishermen, legislators, and many local officials have been increasingly concerned about social conflict between commercial and recreational fishermen within the confines of the State Parks. Most of the incidents that have been reported have involved surf casters, but there have also been a number of incidents between boat fishermen and the commercial fishermen.

It is perhaps difficult to understand why some people choose to hurl themselves into a situation that promotes and encourages misunderstandings and quarrels. This difficulty of comprehension becomes even more blurred when one looks at the amount of shore line at a place like Montauk that is virtually inaccessible from the shore and overlooked by all but a handful of recreational sharpies. Perhaps it is the herding instinct that draws individuals to the same place in spite of a lack of compatibility of philosophy and technology. It has always seemed wiser, to a thoughtful person, that the commercial fishermen would have fared better economically and would have succeeded in projecting a better image had they long ago adopted the habit of fishing away from recreational fishermen is a motivation to step in and share the harvest at that location, yet the older and more careful commercial fishermen have always known that large concentrations of fish can be found by those who take the trouble to look for them away from centers of recreational activity. Recreational anglers can only take fish when they are eating, while the nets of commercials take fish regardless and the only limiting factor is that the fish are there. Haul seiners have often demonstrated this fact. We have seen cases where recreational fishermen worked a stretch of beach both from the outside and the inside for a week, only to come up virtually empty. Along comes the haul seiners and the net comes in bulging with fish. Why? Fish may eat continuously at certain times of the year, but they do not eat constantly at all times. Many times large schools of fish will take up residence in an area for many days without any great amount of feeding.

Enough of this philosophical questioning of behavior and motives. What seems to be the bottom line in this situation is that people did not choose to avoid conflict with others whose location was not by choice. Thus, there precipitated conflict: the surf casters surrounded by gill nets and almost drowned; the intent to proliferate trap nets on park lands, the cutting off of lures, the smashing of tackle, the threats, the innuendos, and the bloodshed. Thus, we go back to the premise of the parks. The title of the Commission says *Long Island State Parks and Recreation.* The key word is recreation. Here and there along both shores of Long Island there are small refuges of *Recreation* called the State Parks. In recent years, the primary purpose of the parks was under siege and at times it began to look like people who wished to use the parks for recreation were to be pushed aside in favor of those who were willing to threaten and, at times, even hurt other humans. Recent discussions with the Commission and its General Manager John Sheridan have rediscovered and re-stated the primary purpose of the parks: *RECREATION!* Great progress has been made in that respect and more will surely follow. However, it became clear to us that the Commission was in some ways hamstrung to achieve all the implications of a recreational philosophy. We investigated and found a way for that problem to be resolved.

THE BILL:

COMMERCIAL fishing adjacent to Long Island State Park Lands.

1. For the purposes of this section, commercial fishing shall be deemed to mean the taking of fish by use of fish pound traps, or nets except those nets that are used in completing the catch of a fish hooked by angling.

2. Commercial fishing except by use of existing fish pound traps, as provided in subdivision three of this section, is prohibited within one mile of any state park land under the jurisdiction of the Long Island State Park Commission, except Napeague State Park until such time that the Napeague

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 22 **June 4th, 1981**

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About the Cover—

N.Y. Daily News Outdoor Editor, Jerry Kenney, seeks respite after whipping a triple-header of big pollack at Block Island. Action took place aboard the charterboat "Adios." The spring run is on in earnest as this week's fishing reports reveal.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **STRIPER TACTICS**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
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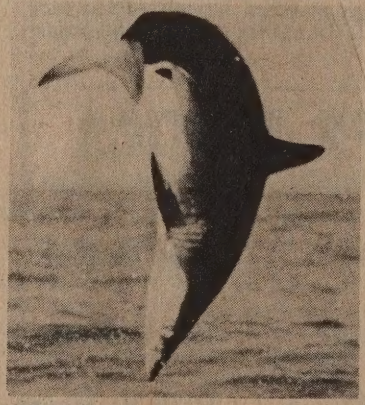

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CHUM LINES

LOOKING FOR EELS!

I bought a 14 ft. McKee last summer and at the same time, I started my subscription to The Fisherman. I spend the summer fluke fishing in Navesink River and Sandy Hook Bay. This summer I would like to get some eels. I am not looking to spear them or go at night. I like to go in the daytime with hook and line. Can some of your readers help me with some hotspots and some how-to. Thank you. *Tau J. Jensen, Englishtown, N.J.*

I do not live in New Jersey and I haven't fished any of the areas that you mention. Therefore, I am not in a position, and neither are any of the other LIF staffers, to offer specific help on locations. However, we can still give you some good advice: at least we think it's good advice! Why not call our sister publication in New Jersey. The folks who operate our sister publication fish all over that ara—from New York Bight to Del-MarVa and beyond. In fact, you should easily be able to find a copy of the magazine on local newsstands. In that way you'll get the specifics that you need. However, in general, eels can be caught in shallow bays, rivers, and other semi-enclosed bodies of water during the day. They like somewhat muddy bottoms most of the time and in areas where there is a good supply of bait. The food supply could be small fish or burrowing in ertebrates. Anchor up in a likely deep hole. Begin with a few of the holes where you might seek flounder in the spring. Stock a chum pot with crushed mussels and/or clams and lower it to the bottom. In such a spot you can expect to catch toadfish, a few small flounder, eels, and maybe even a porgy now and then. Dr. W.A.M.

NO. SHORE BOAT RAMPS

First I want to thank the LIF for the good job they're doing. Every Wednesday I wait for the postman, my wife says I'm like a junkie waiting for my fix.

Okay, first I would like to know if there is any way I can find out some information on ramps on the north shore, around Port Jeff., Huntington, Northport areas. I own a 21' center console and it's just getting too expensive to trailer way out east. I'd like to know if there are any places I can launch if I pay a fee. I live on the south shore.

Second I'd like to just say hello to Captain John DeMaio. I'm Olie Anderson's son Bruce from S. Ozone Park. Thank you. *Andy Anderson, W. Babylon.*

There are town ramps in Huntington,

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Northport and Port Jefferson. In most cases, non-residents can use the ramps if they pay a fee and at certain times of the year. We'd suggest for each town you have an interest in, that you call the Town Department of Recreation and inquire about fes and conditions. You can also get directions on how to get there. In Port Jefferson, you can also use the Caraftis ramp. In addition, since you live in Babylon don't overlook the fishing possibilities close to home. There are ramps (Town of Babylon) close by and then there is the State Ramp at Heckscher Park. Dr. W.A. Muller.

Pass It On...

FLOTILLA 13-3 PROMOTES SAFE BOATING AS PART OF NAT'L. SAFE BOATING WEEK

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-3 of Long Beach has scheduled SAFE BOATING DISPLAYS and FREE Courtesy Marine Examinations on June 5, 6, and 7 at Hempstead Town Marina - West, Pt. Lookout, as part of National Safe Boating Week.

National Safe Boating Week is annually proclaimed by the President and approved by Congress as a time to bring attention for the need for "Safe Boating" to all who use America's waterways and coastal waters.

"Since World War II pleasure boating has been on the increase," said Flotilla Commander Alan Reff of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, "until today it is America's number one family participating sport." "And the Coast Guard Auxiliary has grown with the sport of pleasure boating," FC Alan Reff added, "promoting Safe Boating through public education."

1981 BABYLON INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Babylon Tuna Club is pleased to announce its 25th Annual Invitational Tuna, Marlin and Shark Tournament to be held at Babylon on July 25 and July 26, 1981. All boats entering must be at least 23' in length and equipped with VHF or CB radio.

Tournament designated 3-boat club teams, will be competing for club prizes, and all anglers may compete for individual prizes. Mooring facilities at the Babylon Town Dock will be made available without cost to the tournament participants. Due to limited dock space, berths will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

This year's entry fee will be $100 per boat; $250 for a 3-boat club team. There will be no additional angler fees. Bait and chum will not be provided; however, it will be readily available in the immediate vicinity of the dock along with the fuel.

A captains' meeting will be held on Friday evening at 8PM on the Town Dock. At this time, boat numbers, tournament patches and literature will be distributed. Rules will be explained and questions answered. All awards will be made Sunday night July 26, on the dock immediately following weigh-in.

As in previous years, all fish will become the property of the tournament to be auctioned off at the Town Dock with all proceeds to be donated to the ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN.

On Saturday evening following the weigh-in, an optional clambake will take place on the dock. It will take place under a covered patio. Tables and chairs will be provided. The affair will be catered by B&B and will be open to tournament participants and their guests.

GRUMMAN BOATS CATALOGS WORTH WRITING FOR

When Grumman Boats pioneered lightweight aluminum canoes way back in 1945, responding to everyone's demand for a better, lighter canoe with which to fish, to hunt, or just explore, they offered one catalog. Now, still in step with the times, Grumman must offer two descriptive brochures: one showing the complete

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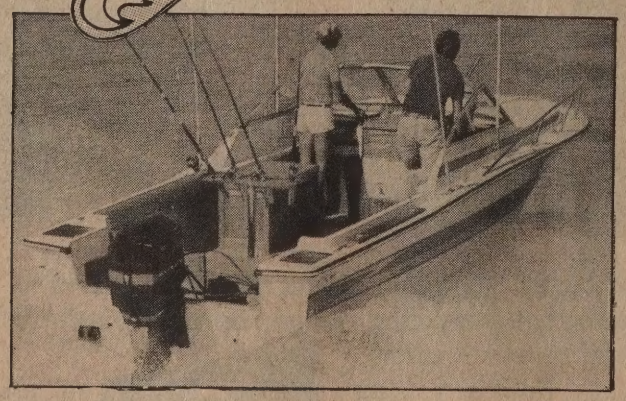

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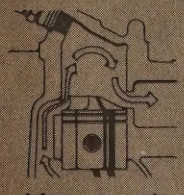

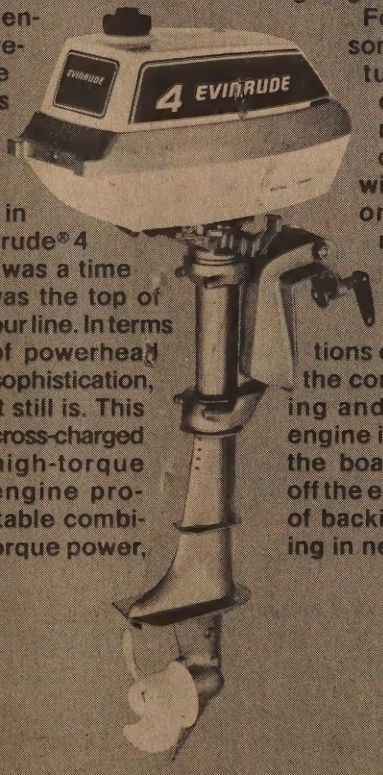

For '81, we've added some great new features to our 4, including a front mounted fuel shut-off valve combined with choke knob, and on the 90-degree models, a neutral clutch gearcase. Neutral and forward gear positions enable you to have the convenience of starting and warming up the engine in neutral, stopping the boat without shutting off the engine and the ease of backing down by starting in neutral then turning the engine around before engaging the clutch. The 4 is lighter this year, too... a full 8 percent lighter. But don't get the idea that because it's only 34 pounds, it's a lightweight in performance. How many engines this portable would give you a built-in 1¼ quart plastic fuel tank, centri-matic pump cooling, full 360-degree steering, and much more?

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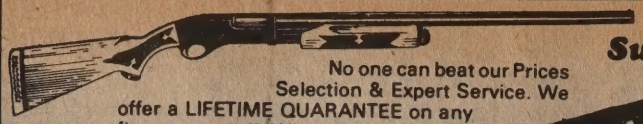

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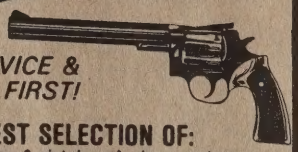

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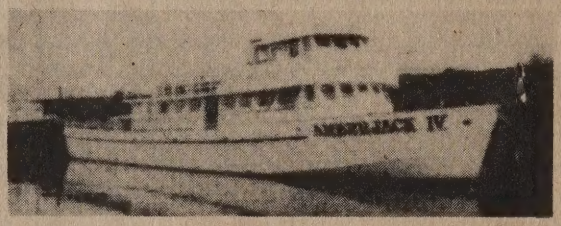

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boat line, another just for canoes. Aluminum canoes have been joined by five new models of plastic canoes much in demand. Two are ABS models and three fiberglass.

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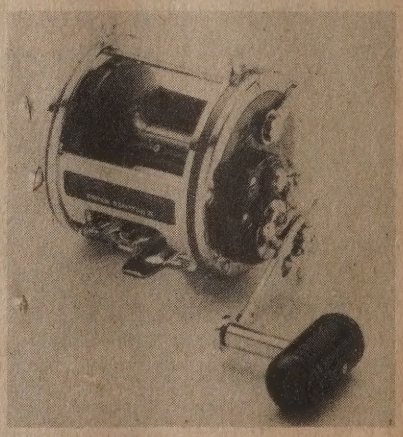
If you are thinking about a new boat this year, one that will reduce your fuel consumption, and one that will be trailerable or may be carried atop your car for many years to come, write for one or both of these new Grumman catalogs. Grumman Boats, Marathon, New York 13803.

RECYCLING POSTPONED

The monthly Recycling Drives sponsored by the Marine Environmental Council of L.I. on the third Saturday of the month in Seaford will be temporarily postponed, starting in June because of a poor market for recycled paper.

Contributors of newspapers to the environmental cause are requested to watch for a restarting date in the next couple of months. MECLI will be back at its old stand as soon as the situation improves.

New Products



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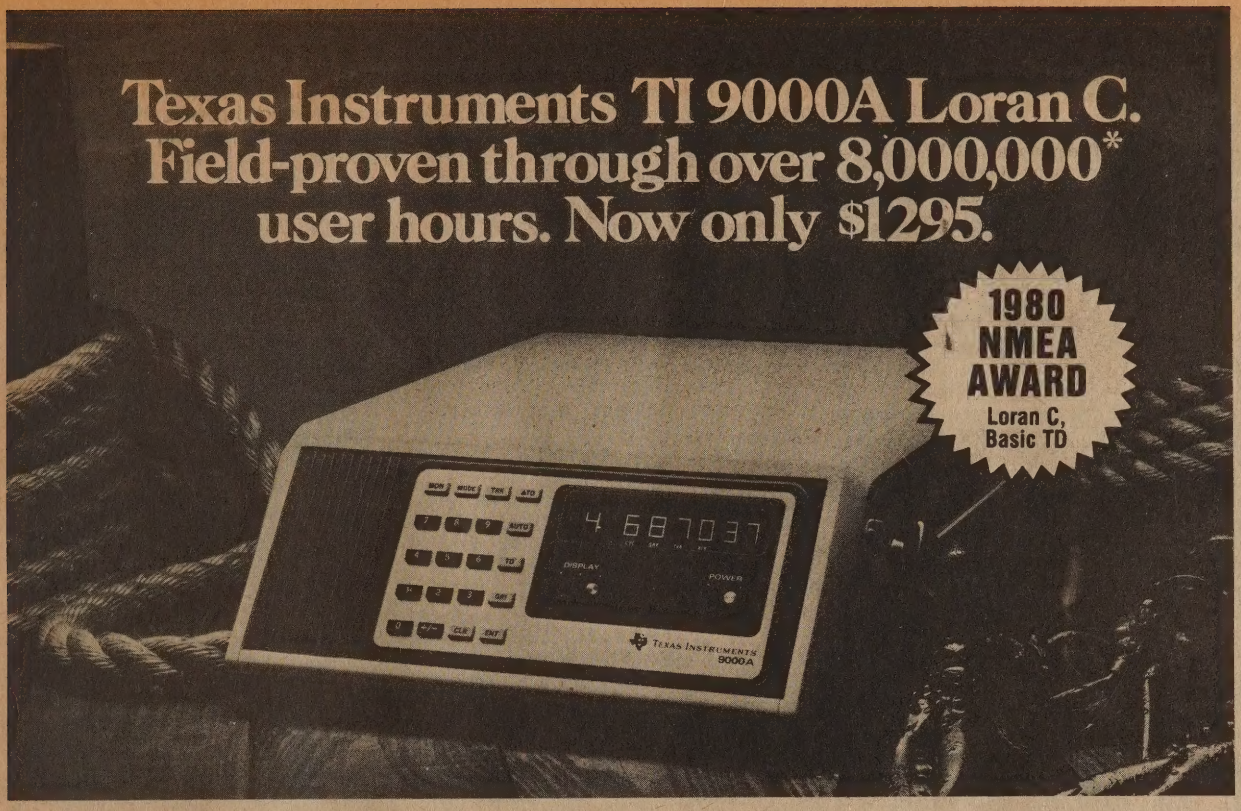

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*Figure is an estimate based on average owner/vessel usage from industry sources.

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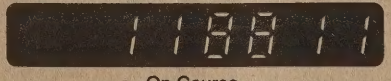
Steer to Starboard

Steer to Port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forged anodized aluminum 2-3/4" spool for lightness and superior strength required in trolling and casting. The unique chrome-plated solid aluminum spacer bars give the reel EXTRA strength and rigidity regardless of the fishing pressure. And, if you need replacements, they are inexpensive and readily available.

Furthermore, this great reel features a convenient line capacity chart; man sized handle for extra leverage; stainless steel ball bearings and gears boosted by impressive 2.8-1 gear ratio, plus Penn's smooth "Star" drag system with oversize multiple discs. This magnificent reel also comes with harness lugs and rod clamp. Capacity 475 yds./50 lb. mono. Weight 47 oz. Made in the U.S.A.

For more information on this new reel and the entire Penn line, write: Penn Reels, Dept. P, 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19132; telephone 215-229-9415.

TRU-TRIM MAKES STEERING EASY

The extraordinary torque generated by many of today's high horsepower outboards and sterndrives can make steering really tough.

Tru-Trim is a unique, all mechanical accessory that overcomes the effects of torque to make steering finger-tip easy, at any speed, any heading. (It is not, however, recommended for high performance boats or speeds above 55 mph.)

Tru-Trim makes many boats more fuel efficient, too! There are no power robbing pumps or motors, and because the boat steers a true course instead of "crabbing," your rig can perform as it was designed to.

The secret of the Tru-Trim unit is the three, self-adjusting fins in the prop thrust zone. These fins constantly adjust to maintain "zero torque effect." Turning the steering wheel in either direction causes the fins to momentarily deflect the prop thrust to help you turn the drive unit or motor.

Tru-Trim is manufactured by Morse Controls, a longtime leader in the development of marine engine and steering control systems. Models are available to fit nearly every popular outboard and sterndrive (singles and twins) and are easily attached to most popular mechanical steering systems.

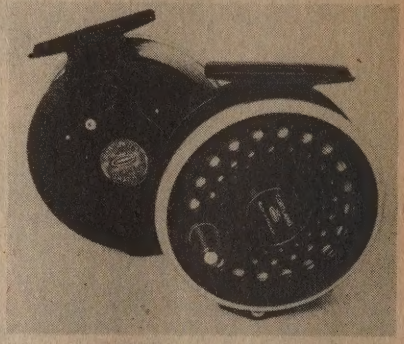
Suggested retail price is $229.95, and units are available through most marine retailers.

WRAP MASTER BY PFEIFFER

One mark of a professionally wrapped rod is that the guide wraps are equal on both sides of the guide. While several methods of measurement are possible, the easiest is by using the WRAP MASTER, an exclusive with Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters. The special clear plastic six inch rule has both regular inch/metric scale but also has a center "O" to make it easy to space wraps equally from the center of the guide.

To use the WRAP MASTER, tape the guide on the rod blank, hold the center "O" on the rod blank at the center of the guide and measure out equal distances from the center to tape or mark the rod for the wrap boundary.

The WRAP MASTER complete with instructions is available for $.99 plus $.30 shipping and handling from Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters, 14303 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, Maryland 21131, 301-667-6464.



NEW CORTLAND LTD GRAPHITE FLY REEL FEATURES UNIQUE OPTIONAL DRAG SYSTEM

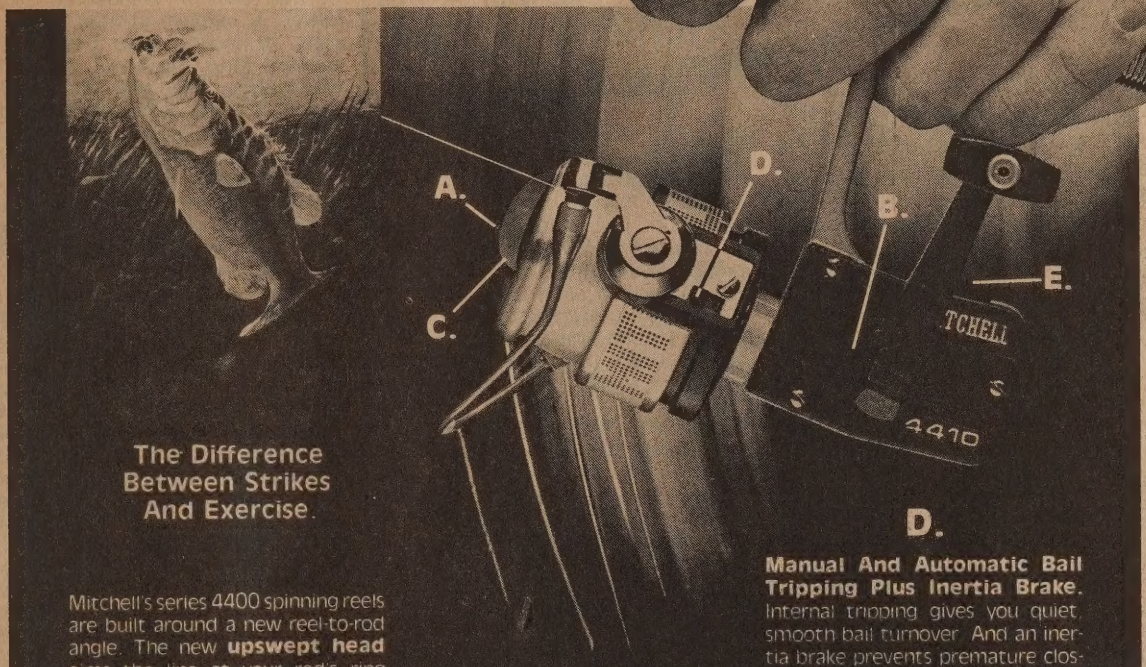
Cortland's new extra-lightweight LTD GRAPHITE fly reel weighs only 4½ ounces, yet has the capacity to accommodate a WF7F line and 135 yards 20 lb. Micron backing. The unique design features a remarkably efficient optional disc drag system that can be set for complete silence, with counter-clockwise click, or with two way click—all supplemented by an exposed spool rim for finger tip braking. A pushbutton spool release makes spool changes quick and easy—convertible for right or left hand retrieve. Aqualite line guard provides friction-free protection of valuable fly line. Spool diameter 3½ inches. Spare spools are available. Available at Cortland Certified Fishing Pro Shops.

RIVIERA INTROS NEW MODEL 800 AR DOWNRIGGER

A new Electroll (electric retrieve) downrigger has been developed by Riviera Marine & Tackle Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The new Model 800 AR is a low profile model which features an extension arm (either 24 or 48 inches) which provides clearance of swimming platforms, boarding ladders, trim tab, etc. The new unit can be used off the transom or gunwale of the boat. A swivel head at the end of the extension arm assures smooth line payout, even from the gunwale. The electric retrieval system provides raising or lowering line at a fast 100 ft. per minute. A push of the button starts automatic retrievel and stops when it reaches the guide line. Model 800 AR comes ready to fish with all hardware, wire cable, and quick disconnect power cable. Standard equipment includes depth meter, safety reel clutch, trolling weight shell, and line release. Send for free

THE NEW
Mitchell 4400



The Difference Between Strikes And Exercise.

Mitchell's series 4400 spinning reels are built around a new reel-to-rod angle. The new **upswept head** aims the line at your rod's ring guide for nearly friction-free casts and retrieves. Accuracy is unimpaired by distance cutting line slap. Casts are longer too.

A.

Quick Change Skirted Spool For Fast Line Changes. Just push a button to change the spool, which is skirted to keep dirt out and line from mixing with the gear work. It's profiled, too, for smoother line flow and more even retrieve. Spools on the 4400 also feature increased width from floor to lip so more line is stored at full spool diameter which definitely increases the distance of your casts.

B.

Independent Gearing Prevents Line Bunching. The spool reciprocates slower than the rotating head revolves for uniform line build-up across the entire surface area of the spool.

C.

Multi-Disc Drag Keeps Its Cool Under Pressure. The drag system on the Mitchell 4400 series is made of metallic and teflon discs, backed with a demospan spring to give you a wide variety of settings for a broader range of line weights.

D.

Manual And Automatic Bail Tripping Plus Inertia Brake. Internal tripping gives you quiet, smooth bail turnover. And an inertia brake prevents premature closing. The bail can be tripped with a touch of the bail trip button.

E.

Audible Or Silent Anti-Reverse. The Mitchell 4400 series has an anti-reverse that you can run silent or with audible click. (The 4410 ultra-light offers audible anti-reverse only.) Handles mount on left or right side of the reel and invert to store compactly.

Five 4400 series models cover your needs from fresh to saltwater, ultra-light to surf casting. Cinch a Mitchell series 4400 to a Browning Hi-Density rod. The advantages are striking.

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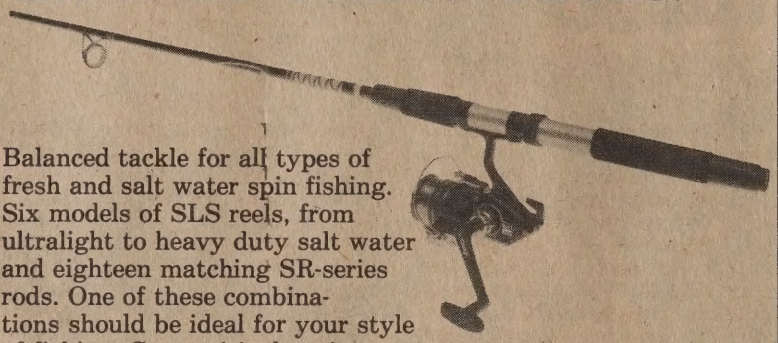

Balanced tackle for all types of fresh and salt water spin fishing. Six models of SLS reels, from ultralight to heavy duty salt water and eighteen matching SR-series rods. One of these combinations should be ideal for your style of fishing. Competitively priced, well constructed and built to last. The reels are in a charcoal finish with reversable left and right hand crank, ball rearing, machine gears and a large disc drag. The SR rods are in maching charcoal color with ceramic guides and fast tip action.

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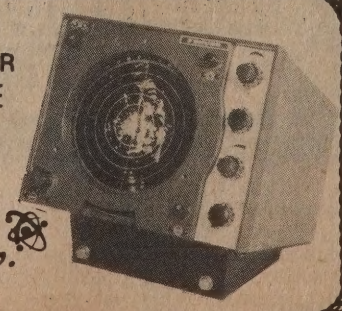

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literature to Riviera Marine & Tackle Company, 795 36th St., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508; or see your tackle dealer.

THE NEW "SPOONWORM"

The new "Spoonworm" is a heavier, stronger version that combines two favorites: the spoon, and the plastic worm. It catches bass, walleyes, pike, muskies, salmon and striped bass in freshwater. In saltwater, it catches striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, sea trout, snook, tarpon, king mackerel, salmon and other fish. The new Spoonworm is made in a nickel finish in two sizes. The small one weighs 5/8 oz. and has a 4" worm. The larger one weighs 1 oz. and has a 6" worm. The small spoon sells for $2.25 and the larger one for $2.50. From Catchmore Lures, Box 9032, Coral Springs, FL. 33065.

BH ELECTRONICS' NEW LINE OF GRAPH RECORDERS

BH Electronics announced it has just acquired the manufacturing rights to the Telisonar graph recorder product line from Telisons International Corp. The recorders will be manufactured in Marshall, MN and offered in three basic models: 1360, 1380, and 1600. They represent a broad range for sport and commercial fishing applications.

Telisonar/Sonic Wave graph recorders offer a combination of high output power and lower frequency transducers (50KHZ) which provide outstanding target detection and maximum depth penetration up to 1,680 ft.

The Model 1600 is the top-of-the-line graph recorder especially designed for deep water fishing. It features more power, Pulse Width Selection, Marking Shifter and Marking Selector—a unique paper saving device for extra economy found only on the Model 1600. Units are available in 30° or 54° wide angle commercial frequency transducers with nine distinct overlapping depth ranges up to 1,680 ft.

Standard features on all Telisonar graph recorders are wide view 6" straight line recording, white line discrimination for bottom-hugging fish, surface clutter control, variable paper speed and night light control.

Telisonar graph recorders are enclosed in an attractive heavy duty plastic molded case for rugged reliability.

These graph recorders, along with other Sonic Wave Marine electronics products are backed by a one year warranty and fast turnaround should service be required.

For further information on Sonic Wave marine products, contact Eugene S. Lyman, BH Electronics, Inc., 331 Bremer Bldg., St. Paul, MN 55101, (612) 228-6463.

BH Electronics is a wholly owned subsidiary of Buckbee-Mears Company headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Striped Bass Management

by Al Ristori

After years of effort by concerned individuals both in and out of government, striped bass management is a real possibility in the near future. The Citizens' Striped Bass Advisory Committee has come up with a list of management recommendations on a coastal basis, and some of the states are already implementing portions of that program.

In order to overcome the old problem of how to balance the rights of the inland spawning areas (where smaller fish are harvested) against the coastal areas (which benefit from the bass not taken inland) there are two sets of recommendations. For inland waters (Albemarle Sound, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, and the Hudson River) the minimum size is proposed as 14'' fork length (2'' more than the limit at present in most inland water, but 2'' less than that in the Hudson), with all major spawning areas closed during spawning activity. All other areas would have a 24'' fork length limit, with the exception that hook and line fishermen could take up to four per day under 24'', and net fishermen would be limited to no more than 5% less than 24''.

Furthermore, all persons who sell or receive striped bass will be required to obtain a permit from their appropriate state agency. Under data collection and monitoring it is recommended that all states will: (a) require all commercial striped bass fishermen to report catch and effort by area, season and gear type;

(b) compile commercial and recreational fishery statistics by area, season and gear type;

(c) collection (concurrent with a and b above) biological samples reflecting age, size and sex composition of the catch.

Massachusetts jumped on the bandwagon first by adopting the 24'' limit with an allowance of four under that size. No separate regulations are necessary there for net fishermen as all but traps established for other species were banned from striped bass fishing in 1947. My experience in Massachusetts long ago convinced me that their ban on net fishing was the most important factor in maintaining a good migratory fishery (especially for big fish) in our waters over the years. When stripers were still abundant, the haul seiners at Montauk made some huge hauls—but that was nothing compared with what nets could have done around Cape Cod and on the vast schools off Nantucket in the fall.

Maine (also a hook and line state) has gone to an 18'' size, with anglers limited to three per day—only one of which may be over 36''. In New York, Save Our Stripers, Inc. has been pushing the 24'' limit through the legislature. The Senate has already passed it and the Assembly was poised to do so before the Department of Environmental Conservation raised some objections. The DEC is supposed to come up with some counter proposals, though I haven't seen them as yet. However, the rumors I've heard include an 18'' overall limit (which is virtually the same as 16'' fork length) plus a five fish limit for rod and reel anglers—but no limit on commercial fishermen. If it's true, that latter regulation would not prove popular with sportsmen, and would also do little to reduce pressure on the striped bass population. In the meantime, SOS still expects to get Assembly approval of the 24'' limit—though Governor Carey's position on the legislation is unknown.

In New Jersey the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife has recommended a daily limit of 5 stripers (down from the present 10 in the Garden State) measuring at least 24'' fork length from coastal waters. Two of those five could be less than 24'', but not less than 14''. In inland waters there would be a 10 fish limit at a minimum of 14''. They also recommend that the coastwide plan include a total catch limit for recreationally caught bass which would be no greater than 10 fish in coastal waters and 20 in inland waters. The division agrees with the closing of major spawning areas during spawning activity, and also goes along with the licensing of those who sell or purchase stripers. A $50 fee is recommended.

Most importantly, New Jersey officials realize the problems associated with the incidental catch limit provided for commercial fishermen. Their position is not to allow any incidental catch. They feel such an allowance would not only pose enforcement problems but would encourage the taking of small stripers, many of which would be returned to the water dead.

I also foresee problems with the incidental catch limit for commercial fishermen. Such a regulation would require considerable on the spot enforcement, and most states are already short on enforcement officers. New York can't even enforce the 16'' striper limit on Manhattan piers, and if they can't do that it's hard to believe that they could enforce any law that requires complicated proof. Large gill net mesh sizes should be required in areas frequented by stripers and there should be no sale of the smaller fish until a good spawning year provides a surplus for this purpose.

Though I'm a little leery of that incidental catch provision in the net regulations, I feel that the Citizens Committee has come up with a pretty good plan. The 24'' limit makes sense after a decade of poor to fair spawning years, and something must be done to reduce the pressure on the smaller fish. I also like the allowance of four bass under 24'' for hook and line anglers as that will take care of the special problems of western Long Island Sound and the New York Harbor area, where smaller bass are often all there is to fish for.

Some Interesting Reading

''Salt Water Sportsman'' has produced an unusual and very interesting publication this year: ''The Directory.'' This 224-page volume covers motorboats, boating accessories and fishing tackle. In the first two categories it's very comprehensive. Just about every manufacturer is listed under the categories they're involved in, and there are also loads of special ads that provide details on many products. Just a few weeks ago I was looking everywhere for the address of Bennett Marine in Florida before I remember ''The Directory.'' After that it was just a matter of looking for ''trim tabs'' in the index and turning to the indicated page. ''The Directory'' sells on newsstands for $3.50, or can be ordered direct from ''Salt Water Sportsman'' (10 High St., Boston, MA 02110) for $4.

The ''Daiwa/Rand McNally Guide to Fishing America'' provides a good insight into the best fishing across the United States. Each state section includes a map with the hotspots pointed out. Don't expect much useful info about your local area or on saltwater fishing, but there's plenty to interest the traveling angler. Priced at $2.95, it's available in tackle shops or directly from Daiwa Corp., Dept. FA, 14011 S. Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.

FISH TALK

JUNE WINNER & SHARKS

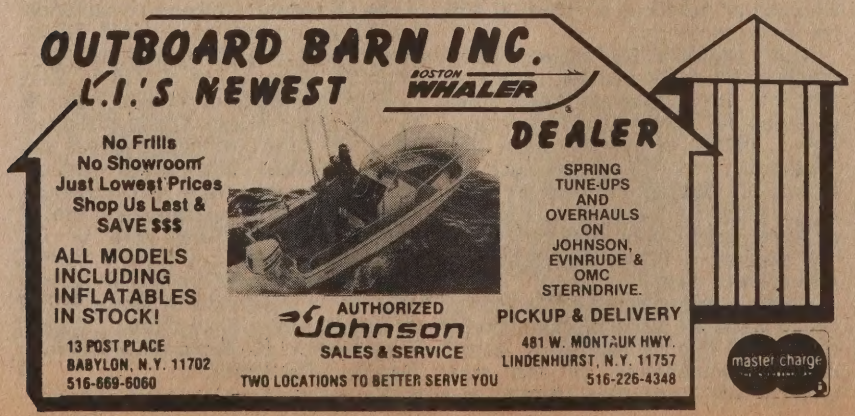
by William A. Muller

HERBERT C. UPSALL, you are our first Connecticut winner. There are many folks up in Connecticut who read The Long Island Fisherman because they frequently fish on the Long Island side of the Sound. Thus, the fishing reports can be of considerable, value, but we like to think that our columns and features are also useful. Herb writes: "I enjoy reading your articles in the LIF, and when you suggested a 'just for fun' big fish contest it reminded me of my biggest fish for 1980. The fishing out of Stamford is quite a bit different to the fishing off eastern Long Island, and in September I can rush home from work and run out to 24-C for an hour of chunking for blues before it gets dark. 24-C is located about midway between Eatons Neck and the Norwalk lighthouse. (Every bass fisherman should know where Norwalk is located after that 71 lber. was caught there last summer.) This particular night there were only two boats out fishing, myself and another solo fisherman. He caught three medium size blues and I didn't even get a nibble as the sun disappeared. Then he pulled up his anchor and went home saying to me that he had been fishing since noon and had 22 fish in the boat. Normally I would have packed it in also, but when I heard his story I decided to stay a little longer. Sometimes the dogfish appear when it gets dark, but I decided to try for just one bluefish. Sure enough I soon had a fish on, and sure enough I saw those luminous eyes gleaming in the dark as I went to gaff my fish. It was a sand shark about three feet long. Be patient I told myself, and in a little while I had another fish on. It was a pretty big fish I thought although it didn't fight like a bluefish, and it didn't run like a bass although that is what I was hoping it turned out to be. After a fairly short but hard struggle I put the gaff to what looked to me to be a monster sand shark. It took all my strength (I'm 57) to lug it aboard and it took up the whole width of the foredeck of my Boston Whaler. While this may not win me any big fish contest, it was certainly the biggest and ugliest fish, with its wide flat head and very rough scales, that I caught in 1980. I would guess that it weighed between 35-40 lbs. and made me huff and puff. Then I went home with the blues, but no blues."

WE HOPE THAT YOU'LL ENJOY YOUR SIGMA REEL. We thought your letter made a very good point without your perhaps being aware of it. That is, too often we get a little snobbish about what fish we catch. The boat that managed 22 blues beside you came to the spot looking for bass and blues, and so did you. However, what you caught were a couple of large sand sharks. The way you tell it leads us to believe that you enjoyed yourself and well you should have. Perhaps you didn't come up with your intended quarry, but you caught a couple of good-sized fish that fought hard. I can recall when large sand sharks saved my day and if it weren't for them I'd have caught nothing. As it was I caught a few fish that set me back on my heels (I was on the beach at the time). Much the same can be said of a variety of species that fishermen would rather not catch. However, the so-called desirable species aren't always so cooperative and since we fish primarily for the fun involved, a couple of hefty sand sharks will surely add some excitement. As a boy my mother caught a sand shark of about five feet in Peconic Bay while we fished for weaks and I want to tell you that the battle and then the boarding of that shark stirred up great excitement and kept our interest high for about a half-hour. Sea robins can be fun on light tackle and so can bergalls and skates. It's all in the attitude of the beholder.

SHARK HORS D'OEUVRES! From time to time we get letters from readers who wonder about the correct way to clean, prepare, and cook shark meat. Some folks are a little leery because they have heard about the unpleasant experiences of others. Some sharks are relished as gourmet delights. The mako shark heads this list, yet there are other species that are generally considered trash fish. It is true that some species like the common dogfish are good to eat, but they must be cleaned promptly and bled to avoid the contamination of the flesh by urea. Perhaps this is more well known than how to cook them. Therefore, I thought that some of you might be interested in a news release that we received sometime back from the New York Aquarium. It was impossible to get this release into the publication prior to the event, but in retrospect it may be amusing and helpful to some. The Aquarium held a fish cooking class on February 13, 1981. The class was called PISCINE CUISINE. Shark hors d'oeuvres were just one of many dishes that were explained. The release suggested that interested people call Karen Hensel for more information at (212) 266-1309. Now, the event is long over, but it may be true that they are planning another cooking class in the future. It may also be true that a pamphlet was produced following the class and this booket or leaflet may be available at a modest cost.

MORE ON SHARKS! Mike Bordt of Bayport recently wrote to us about sharks and considering the previous content it seems to belong. "I would like to know a little more about two species of fish that I've caught. I haven't seen too much written about them. Over the years, I have caught quite a few sharks on the back side of Tobay. One shark that I caught measured waist high, managed to pull my rod out of my sand spike, and would have done just that had I not managed to intercept the rod on the way down. What is the actual name of



the species? Do they have teeth and are they of any practical use? Also, I've caught a few fish that some folks call 'hackle heads' or dogfish. The fish looks like an ugly sea robin with a big head. I've found that if you cut off the head and troll these at night that it attracts blue claw crabs in droves. Would you know the name of this fish? Can other parts be used for bait? I would also like to thank Matt Ahern for helping me out with fish knots. I enjoy reading The Fisherman immensely and I look forward to receiving it every week."

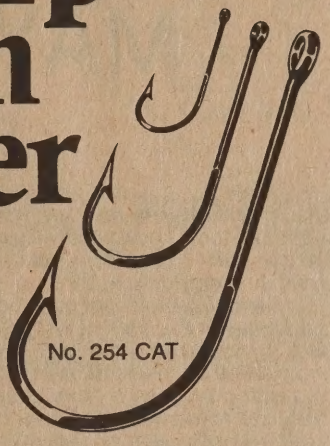
MATT FIRST! Neither Matt Ahern or The Fisherman lightly dismiss your kind words. All the people at this publication try very hard to make it the best publication that it can be. Sure, we goof up now and then, but most of the time the gears blend smoothly and because so many folks work so hard they really appreciate hearing from those who have a kind word as well as from the BOO-BIRDS.

ABOUT YOUR SHARK! Sitting here at the typewriter I can't possibly know what shark you caught behind Tobay. I also don't quite understand why you've asked ME if the fish had any teeth. Didn't you look after you landed it? I can guess that it was a "dogfish." You lumped this species together with "hackle head" in your letter, but these two common names actually refer to two different fish. The dogfish is a type of small shark. There are two types in our waters: one is the smooth dogfish and the other the spiny dogfish. These fish rarely are caught any larger than twenty pounds and most of them are quite small when caught in the back bays. However, the proximity of the Tobay back waters to the ocean often sees larger species finding their way to the back. Small brown sharks are possible, but more likely you'll catch a sand bar shark. Dogfish do not have typical shark teeth. Their jaws have an abrasive covering on the inside, but these hardly rate as teeth. Browns, sand bar sharks, and others would have obvious teeth.

ON HACKLE HEADS. You are correct. A hackle head is a type of sea robin. Actually, there are a number of different species that inhabit our local waters from that family. There are a couple of different sea robins (which differ by color and size) and then there are the hackle heads. The hackle heads tend to have a larger head than the sea robins and are somewhat lighter in color. All the sea robin type fish are excellent baits for crabs and lobsters. The sides of the animal also make a great fluke bait when cut into strips that are tapered. Many people also say that the fish is good to eat, but we've never sampled the species.

DON'T FORGET! It isn't too late to enter the Shakespeare Win a Sigma Reel Contest. Just send your letter to me, c/o The Long Island Fisherman. The address is on the masthead page under the Table of Contents.

These hooks stay sharp longer in salt water



They're calling it "the hook with 9 lives!" CAT stands for amazing Cadmium And Tin super plating that shows super corrosion resistance in actual tests. Shown is the forged O'Shaugnessy with ringed eye, an extra-strong hook ideal for use in salt water. CAT hooks are also offered in other styles and in all sizes.

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YOUR ANCHOR MAY BE A LIFESAVER

by Bob Whittier

When one applies the parking brake on a car, one knows that—barring a police tow truck—the vehicle will remain where one left it.

Unfortunately, a boat does not have a parking brake. Resort is thus made to a device called an anchor. Boaters who take their motorist mentalities to sea with them tend to think that when they put the anchor overboard, their craft will stay at that particular spot on the ocean.

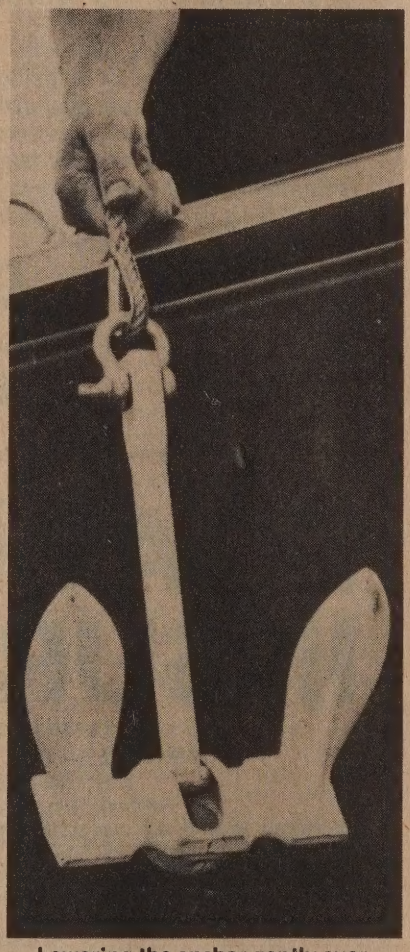
But it won't. At least, not always. If there's no wind or tidal current and the anchor is reasonably in proportion to the boat's size, chances of staying put are good. But let the wind rise or the tide flow, and one can drag anchor easily.

Don't think of your anchor as just something that holds you while you bottom-fish. When the wind rises at the same time your motor quits, it can keep you from drifting onto the rocks or out to sea, depending on the wind's direction.

If fog starts coming in from seaward, you can run for shore—but if it comes out from land it can cut you off from a safe haven. Then sometimes the best thing to do is stay where you are. At least, you know where you are, which is better than being all mixed up after milling around in fog for awhile. Another boat with better navigation equipment may come along and lead you to port, or the fog may lift. But whatever, it's that anchor that you will depend on some day to keep out of a real mess.

Crude anchors rely on weight alone for holding power. A rock or concrete block will hold against a pull of only about two-thirds its own weight. The traditional common anchor having arms, shank and stock, can hold anywhere from three to twelve times its own weight. Today we have several popular "patent anchors," so-called because their designs are the subject of patents, that can hold anywhere from 15 or 20 or up to 1000 times their own weight depending on circumstances.

This means that it's hard to go by weight alone when buying an anchor. One has to read various manufacturers' literature and then decide. Factors to take into consideration are the size and kinds of waters one operates on, local wind and current conditions, space available for stowage when not in use, types of material normally found on the sea bottom in one's operating area, how much one cares to spend, and so on.



Lowering the anchor gently over the side is a seamanlike way of doing it. Can save accidents, too.

Weight and length being the same, a comparatively wide, high boat will need more holding power than will one that is appreciably less able to feel the pull of winds and currents. If one regularly operates on rough and exposed waters, an anchor 50% bigger than the manufacturer's basic recommendation would be a wise investment.

Length of the anchor line is important. When it is twice as long as the water is deep, seamen say it has a "scope" of two-to-one. Such short scope gives almost no holding power, for a simple reason. As the boat pitches with the waves, its bow goes up and down and telegraphs an endless series of not inconsiderable yanks down to the anchor—and these tend to pull up on it. Which is the same as what you do when you haul the anchor!

When scope is four-to-one, holding power increases to about half the anchor's maximum, and only with a cope of seven-to-one or greater will full holding power be realized. It all goes back to that matter of the jerks sent down the line by a pitching boat's bow.

Fishermen hate it when a boat yaws back and forth at anchor. Too short a scope is a common cause. When the boat sends a jerk down the anchor line, the anchor retaliates by sending a jerk back up the line. This is like yanking the reins of a horse. The boat does not like it. Adding scope can substantially reduce "walking" at the end of an anchor line.

A sure way to separate the lubbers from the seamen is to watch a group dropping their anchors. The lubbers for some reason (possibly "monkey-see-monkey do") heave mightily and toss their anchors as hard and as far as they can. Apparently they think this will make the anchor dig into the bottom better. Actually, no matter how hard an anchor is thrown overboard, the resistance of water to anchor and line will always slow down the anchor's rate of descent. Whether lowered or hurled overboard, it will strike bottom at the same speed.

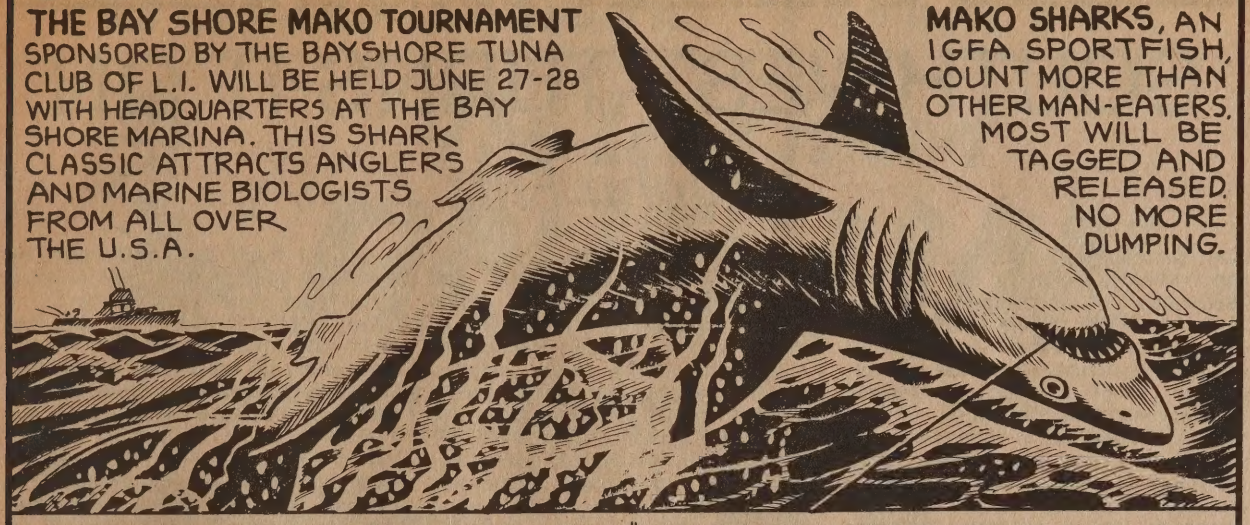
More important to its ability to dig in is its basic design. Any good design will assume the correct position automatically upon reaching bottom. If you want to be sure your anchor is holding well, reverse the boat's engine and have a crew member hold onto the anchor line as the boat reverses. So long as the anchor bounces along the bottom the line will jiggle. When jiggling stops, it's fairly safe to assume the anchor has taken hold.

JUNE SHARK HUNTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY THE BAYSHORE TUNA CLUB OF L.I. WILL BE HELD JUNE 27-28 WITH HEADQUARTERS AT THE BAY SHORE MARINA. THIS SHARK CLASSIC ATTRACTS ANGLERS AND MARINE BIOLOGISTS FROM ALL OVER THE U.S.A.

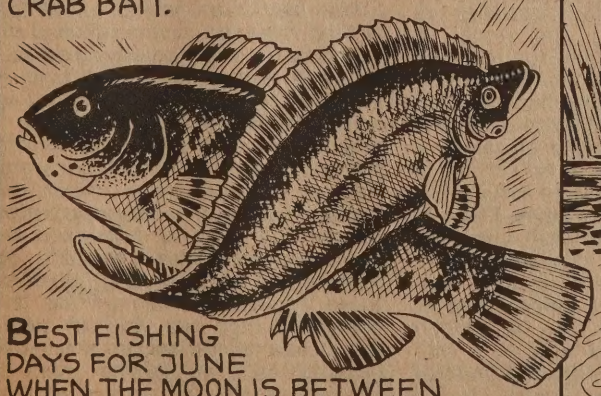
MAKO SHARKS, AN IGFA SPORTFISH, COUNT MORE THAN OTHER MAN-EATERS. MOST WILL BE TAGGED AND RELEASED. NO MORE DUMPING.



THE JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS WILL HOLD THEIR INVITATIONAL SHARK TOURNAMENT JUNE 27-28 BASED AT HOFFMAN'S ANCHORAGE, BRIELLE, N.J.

THE SOUTH JERSEY FISHING CENTER IS HOLDING ITS 1ST ANNUAL SHARK TOURNAMENT JUNE 12-13-14... $5000 IN CASH PRIZES. CAPE MAY IS WHERE IT'S AT.

A CONNECTICUT FISHERMAN.. PAUL SADOWSKI, WON TWO "*SPORTS AFIELD*" FISHING AWARDS ON THE SAME DAY, JULY 6, 1980. PAUL'S RECORD FISH, CAUGHT OFF STONINGTON, WERE A 3 LB. FLOUNDER ON A SANDWORM AND A 15½ LB. BLACKFISH ON CRAB BAIT.



BEST FISHING DAYS FOR JUNE WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW AND FULL* ARE JUNE 2-17

THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY'S FIELD TRIP THROUGH NEW JERSEY'S PINE BARRENS WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 5-7. A.L.S. MEMBERS WILL PADDLE RIVERS AND PONDS FROM A BASE CAMP OF CABINS WHERE NIGHT HIKES AND LECTURES WILL BE HELD.

SOUTHWEST TURNS IT ON

by John Fritz

Consistent surf fishing was a difficult commodity to come by during the 1980 season. It was fortunate that one of the few bright spots in an otherwise disappointing season took place during the pleasant weather of the summer months at a location available to everyone. One drawback to this otherwise ideal set of circumstances was that it caused considerable crowding along the water's edge, especially on the sultry summer weekends. Some selective surfmen could find fault with the species of fish which accounted for the major portion of the catch and others will scorn the method used to take the greater percentage of these fish, but swimming sandworms in the surf at Democrat Point accounted for many fine weakfish in the early summer of '80.

After the hordes of weakfish have finished their business on the shallow flats of Great South Bay a large segment of the population finds its way back through Fire Island Inlet to take up temporary residence at the inlet's mouth. This activity began during the latter half of June and continued, more or less unabated, until mid-August. A period spanning almost eight weeks and providing a standard I doubt any other beach on Long Island could match last season. Of course, there were off nights when a strong sweep or some other natural condition curtailed the fishing temporarily, but as soon as the adverse elements subsided, the weaks resumed their feeding spree.

As word of the activities at Democrat spread, and surfmen seeking decent action in other areas reached a point of frustration, the shore line from the buggy cut to the jetty resembled an ancient army encampment. The regrettable custom, so frequently practiced under the Light at Montauk, was widespread during the height of the weakfish run. Anglers would arrive hours before sunset to stake out their piece of beach, much to the dismay of surfmen trying to get in a few hours fishing after a hard day's work. Fortunately on many occasions the fish were spread over a wide area so that everyone enjoyed a part of the action; although certain areas did produce more fish than others. The most sought after stretch of beach reached from the left side of the jetty to a point approximately 400 yards east. While there were two other desired locations, spaced further down the beach, they are difficult to pinpoint and probably of little use after the winter storms.

Some anglers, finding themselves excluded from the more desirous locations, tried their luck fishing from the tip of the jetty. Although the rip off the jetty tip will provide excellent results, landing weakfish with their fragile lips from these precarious rocks can present somewhat of a problem. A partner armed with a jetty gaff and willing to climb down to the water's edge to snare your fish is a definite advantage. Unfortunately, the best fishing occurred on nights when fishing from the jetty would be uncomfortable, if not dangerous, for a stiff southwest wind produced the conditions which resulted in excellent fishing.

During this period vast quantities of sand eels inhabited the waters adjacent to Fire Island Inlet. The presence of this food supply held the weakfish nearby but occasionally they would remain off the beach out of reach of the disappointed surfmen. On most occasions the coming of darkness was sufficient cause to lure an ample number into the surf, but under the effects of a strong onshore wind the fishing really reached it's peak.

While it was sand eels that kept the weakfish in the area, most anglers found that fresh sand worms were the best choice of bait. On nights when the fishing was extremely productive, successful anglers found that their supply of worms would rapidly disappear. Therefore, it is a wise decision to purchase the worms by the flat rather than by the dozen. Aside from eliminating the tendency to skimp on baiting the hook, a considerable cash savings can be realized. If the unfortunate situation occurs where an angler finds that his bait supply has been exhausted, the night could be salvaged by taking a walk along the tide line. On many occasions, particularly when the fishing is hectic, the game fish will force the bait into the wash where the sand eels become stranded on the sand. Two or three fresh sand eels impaled on a hook is equivalent to or better than worms. As an added bonus, hooks baited with sand eels could prove attractive to any bluefish lurking amongst the weaks, as my buddy George found to his delight one night last July. I'm sure that if a supply of fresh sand eels could be depended upon, many regulars would forsake the use of sand worms.

As for the selection of terminal gear, both the fish finder and the pompano rigs have their advocates. Probably more surfmen favor the fish finder rig because of its versatility, for the distance off the bottom can be varied by lengthening the leader or changing the position of the cork. This practice is helpful when the feeding depth of the fish is unknown, but on those occasions when the fish are feeding at or near the bottom a pompano rig will often result in a better catch. The latter rig with its two hooks will provide a second chance if the first hit is missed or the tails of the worms are lost by a short strike.

Even though there are instances when the hook size is of no particular importance, within reason of course, I have found that a 1/0 Eagle Claw baitholder to be ideal for this type of fishing. This hook used in conjunction with a small oval cork will permit two or three sand worms to be hooked through the head leaving the greater portion of the body to dangle enticingly in the currents.

On flat calm nights most surfmen prefer to allow their rods to rest in a sand spike. While this is a nice leisurely approach to surf fishing it does result in numerous missed opportunities. A better method and one that is required when a heavy surf and a crowded beach are encountered is to stand at the water's edge and hold the rod in one's hand. Better control of the line and instantaneous response to a strike is achieved resulting in more fish on the beach.

One cannot determine, as of this writing, the exact configuration of the beach during the approaching season. In some years there has been a parallel bar a short distance off the shore. As the tide recedes, access to this bar can be gained by wading through the trough which separates this bar from the beach. When this condition exists it is often necessary to cast the terminal gear over the outer edge of the bar. Therefore, the lower stages of the tide are favored by those anglers unable to cast this distance at high tide. In other years, the beach is formed in a gradual sloping shelf. When the shore is shaped in this manner excellent fishing can be realized on all stages of

(Continued on page 55.)

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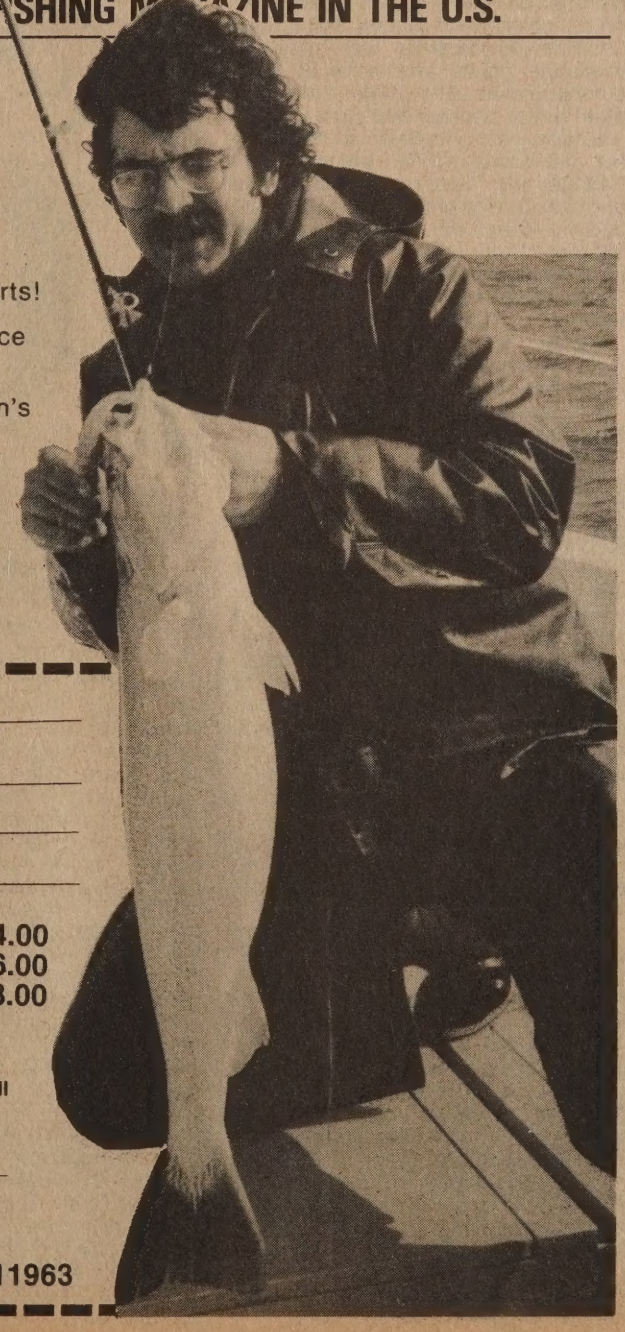

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OLD TIMER'S CORNER

Barter — And Other Things

by Matt Ahern

For me, the transaction known as bartering has always been of great interest. This preoccupation, I believe, is a holdover from the days when I first became aware that such activity existed. In my mind's eye I can still see my third grade teacher as she stood before our class and taught us kids how barter was used to exchange goods and services long before our coin of the realm, "the root of all evil," became more popular.

I have just consulted Mr. Webster for verification. To barter, Mr. Webster says, is to traffic or trade by direct exchange of one commodity for another. Clear and precise, as indeed Mr. Webster always is. I silently thanked my bookish mentor, and Mrs. DeForrest, my long ago school teacher.

Barter, to me, is an intriguing word; a wonderful word. And as a kid, I took full advantage of it.

I'm certain that as youngsters, each of us has engaged in bartering at one time or another. "I'll swap you this old knife, Jimmy, if you'll give me that cat's eye marble." Or something like that. It is, let us say, a common modus operandi of childhood.

As I said, I bartered as a boy; but not too much in the line of marbles, baseball cards, or movie star picture cards as the other kids did. I bartered fish. There were two reasons for this. One, I was the neighborhood kid whose every waking moment (and often sleeping moment) was in some way engaged in fishing; and two, my childhood was spent learning the ropes just before the onset of the Great Depression. When it came, I was already well oriented in the fishing life, which in turn enabled me to keep the wolf from the door for myself and many of my neighbors.

I sold my fish to those neighbors who held a job and therefore could afford them, and gave them away to those for whom long unemployment eventually became a distressing way of life. In this way I earned money to continue my party boat fishing and at the same time had the opportunity to follow to the letter the teachings of the Golden Rule. My bartering was an offshoot of all this.

Of course, I had to hustle around the neighborhood to build and increase my supply of cash-paying customers. But those who were unemployed were easy enough to find—our Brooklyn neighborhood had more than its fair share.

Ling—the bartering "tool" of the early Thirties.

Selling my fish was not difficult, but giving them away became a problem at times. I couldn't barge in on a needy neighbor and say "Hey, Mrs. Jones, I know your husband's out of work; so here's some fish for you." I'm sure had I done that, I would have been tossed out on my ear. If nothing else, those unhappy people held fiercely to their pride.

Instead, I'd say something like: "Mrs. Jones, I caught an awful lot of fish today and maybe you can help me out and take a few off my hands." Of course Mrs. Jones knew why I was at her doorstep, but as long as I allowed her to keep that all-important pride, I was as welcome as the flowers in May.

And from there I became deeply involved with bartering. And it came in all innocence.

Every Brooklyn neighborhood had its shoe repair shop. Ours was three blocks away and was run by two brothers by the name of Owen. One was a deaf mute, and the other made up for it by being one shrewd son-of-a-gun. Not that he was dishonest, or anything like that, but he did like the best end of the bargain.

I stopped in the shop one day after school to pick up a pair of my father's shoes which had been left for half-soleing. Half-soles, I remember, were fifty cents; full soles, seventy-five—none but the affluent could afford full soles those days. After Mr. Owen placed Pop's half-soled shoes in a paper bag, he asked me how the fishing was going. And when I told him "good," he asked if I had any to sell. I said no, but expected to have some on the coming Saturday. We were in the midst of ling fishing at the time and I had no qualms about not catching all I wanted.

When he asked how much the ling were, I told him it went according to size—usually four or five for a quarter. Okay, he said. I was to bring him a quarter's worth each week. When I returned that Saturday evening, he initiated me into bartering. I was to keep track of how many quarter packages of fish I delivered and he would repair the family's shoes in exchange. I remember his

saying: "Fair exchange is no robbery, Mattie boy."

So—from that I began to take an interest in what my bartered fish would bring. I remember getting replacement tubes for our sick radio, plus fruit and vegetables from the Bohack grocery on the corner. I suppose I could even have gotten the barber to give me a hair cut (twenty-five cents those days) if I'd had the nerve to dicker. It was the hey-day of bartering, but only because of the conditions at the time.

Yes, things were rough during my boyhood—but there was also much kindness about.

I well remember our neighborhood dentist, Dr. Ralph Epstein. There was many a tooth he extracted or filled which was never paid for. "You got a bad toothache, kid? Go see Doctor Epstein and tell him I'll pay him soon as I can." Which was usually never. I know there were many two dollar extractions and three dollar fillings (the going rate those days) that were "marked on the ice." It wasn't that most people wouldn't pay, they just couldn't. But Dr. Epstein never complained. He just went about in his gentle way, willing always to help out those less fortunate. Dr. Epstein was quite a man.

He was also a fisherman.

And I guess maybe I was responsible for that. In those early days, I was just as enthusiastic about fishing as I am today. Nothing's changed. I've been told enthusiasm is highly contagious. And I guess that's right, for I know it was because of this that Dr. Epstein caught the fishing bug from me.

As I recall it, one afternoon after school I was in his office for something or other and as always, the only thing on my mind was fishing. Even a visit to the dentist couldn't dampen that. In reply to his subtle questions, which I now believe were more to put me at ease than anything else (dentistry was not as painless as it is today), I would tell him of my fishing adventures on party boats. I must have cast a spell, for he became so enthusiastic that future half-hour visits quickly lengthened into an hour or more. This eventually forced Dr. Epstein to schedule my appointments for the tail end of the day. In that was there was no risk with fussing and fuming patients in the waiting room. Doing this gave us plenty of time for "fish talk."

Would I take him fishing soon? Say next Sunday? You bet.

And that was the beginning of the fishing life for Dr. Epstein. We went out many a Sunday and he learned to become an excellent fisherman. I remember he became a tough man to beat when codfishing. The good doctor paid for everything: my fare, the pool, all public transportation (he had no car). Mrs. Epstein put up the greatest lunches for us; and she knew just what a fourteen-year-old liked to eat. On those Sundays when he couldn't make it, Dr. Epstein insisted upon giving me the necessary one dollar fare. "Drop some fish off at the house, Matt." And when I did, Mrs. Epstein insisted upon paying for them.

It has been well over a half-century since those days, Dr. Epstein, but I have never forgotten you—and I never shall. The good Lord put you in our poor neighborhood for a reason, and it wasn't just to go fishing with a kid.

So, these are three more episodes in my early fishing life. There are many more, of course, and eventually we'll get to them. But in the meantime, if you have any comment, or wish to relate some of your own experiences, get in touch with me at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. We'll kick it around.

Oh—one thing. Please be sure to include your address so that I can reply. Occasionally I receive letters which contain no return address, or with addresses written so illegibly that I cannot decipher them. I have a number now which I cannot reply to simply because of this. I always answer my mail on the day it is received, so if you don't hear from me, this is the only reason.

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AN ISLAND AFFAIR

by Capt. Zac Grossman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each spring, a small army of anglers wielding long, skinny wands have invaded the picturesque shores of Shelter Island. Nestled comfortably between the North and South Forks, the Island provides optimum conditions for saltwater fly rod enthusiasts to pursue their sport. Members of the N.Y. Chapter of Salty Fly Rodders of America hold an annual affair, which they have dubbed their "Shelter Island Rally," to coincide with Peconic Bay's spring run of weaks. Aside from the fishing possibilities, the "Rally" is an opportunity for fly-rodders to share new ideas on tackle, fly patterns, and technique. In addition, there are seminars on fly tying and casting for those who are relatively new to the sport. A strong sense of camaraderie exists throughout the long weekend and the tone is usually set with a visit to the aptly named "hospitalty Cottage" on Friday evening. This year's affair is slated for June 11-13. It was this annual outing which provided the catalyst for the following article.

No, this is not a romantic novel for fish. It is an article about one of my favorite kinds of fishing: nighttime fly-casting for weaks. I often daydream about fishing (don't we all) and contrary to what you might expect of the captain of an offshore charter boat, many of those dreams place me in water four feet deep standing in a pair of waders. I fondly recall the memory of my first encounter with weakfish and every spring finds me anxious to relive those pleasures. I return every year to Shelter Island and indulge myself in this quiet sport without having to listen to the diesels or bother about flying gaffs, gimbal belts and the like.

It started many years ago. I had just joined the Salty Flyrodders of New York and found myself on a bridge over Gardiner's Creek with a couple of fellow members. There we stood, in waders, waiting for the tide to ebb, enjoying the quiet and the sweet night air. It was Memorial Day weekend and the fish were expected to show up as the tide began to drop.

After awhile I noticed a dull purple light pass under the bridge, then another and another. They were small jellyfish phosphorescing in the darkness as the current pushed them along. The tide had begun to ebb. The waters pouring out of the tidal marsh on the other side of the bridge were teeming with grass shrimp and small minnows that I was told would bring the hungry weaks to this spot. Still everyone waited on the bridge, silent.

SMACK! A sound like a kiss in the night broke the silence. SMACK! Smack! Another kiss then another and soon the air was filled with the sound. One of the guys on the bridge shouted, "They're here, let's go."

This is what they had been waiting for. Those "kisses" were the sounds made by weakfish as they rose to the surface to suck down a grass shrimp or minnow silhouetted against the night sky. I was directed to a sand bar that reaches out to the channel and waded out, keeping my distance from those already there. One of them was already into a fish. This spot, like every other tidal creek in the Peconics, is tailor made for the fly fisherman. It has an abundance of food, a stream-like current, and lots of big sea trout.

I began to strip out line and after a couple of false casts shot the small yellow fly with a deer hair head and grizzly wings out over the water about 45° up-current. It alighted and swiftly

began to drift down stream in the darkness. The most difficult part of this kind of fishing, and therefore the challenge, is feeling the hit. You have to maintain delicate contact with the fly without hindering its motion as it floats downstream among the multitude of real morsels. The line has to be stripped in just fast enough to allow you to feel the very delicate hit but not fast enough to cause drag on the lure. I remember missing fish after fish after fish until I finally hooked one. Then I knew what to feel for, it takes practice.

I felt a hesitation in the line's movement and struck, but not fast enough. The fly had been inhaled and exhaled in less than a second. Who knows how many hits I hadn't sensed. I lifted the fly into the air as the line straightened out below my position and again shot it upstream. Two "kisses" behind me startled the hell out of me, I was standing only knee deep in the water.

Suddenly a twitch in the line, I lifted the rod sharply and stripped line at the same time. The rod bent over and my first weakfish cartwheeled out of the water. He ran across the little creek toward the sand bar on the other side where silhouettes of other fishermen stood out. Then he turned and ran downstream. About ten minutes later I led the fish into the landing net. He barely fit. I turned my back toward the action and lifted the fish out of the net with my left thumb down his throat. I turned on the light around my neck with the other hand. My eyes widened as I saw the two huge fangs in the fish's upper jaw poised over my thumb. I had never caught one and no one had told me that these fish have **TEETH!** Surrounded by darkness and lit only by the light around my neck, those teeth looked like they belonged in a rattlesnake more than a fish. I recoiled, letting go of the fish. He fell in the water, spit the hook and swam away. I'll never forget that fish.

A few more missed strikes and then another fish went crazy trying to throw the object that stung his jaw. This one made it to the stringer. The tide continued to drop, the moon to rise and each fish was more enjoyable than the one before it. Finally, the action stopped, as abruptly as if a switch had been thrown. I began to wade out of the water. I noticed that some of the others were running to their cars. "C'mon Zac, let's try Chase Creek." So I followed them into the heart of town. The creek ran right behind a local Pub called the Dory. I waded in. The fish were there and feeding noisily. In no time I was attached to a real beauty. The scene was thrilling, as I stood in the swiftly flowing stream, a thrashing fish on the end of my line while the sounds of laughter, music and the clinking of billiard balls wafted out of a bar just 200 feet away, its multicolored sign reflecting brightly in the water. The action continued on for a while until the current died. This spot had given me two nice weaks of about 6 lbs. and four school bass, the other spot accounted for seven weakfish, one helluva night.

With the fish packed into the cooler in my jeep, I helped close the bar with a much needed icy brew and then drove to the ferry line. The next boat wouldn't be until morning so I slumped down in the seat and fell asleep, dreaming of the thrills I had just experienced.

If you're interested in giving this kind of fishing a try there are some things you should know about where to fish and what kind of tackle to use. The technique has already been described above. While Shelter Island is my own personal favorite there are many spots that are ideally qualified. Any tidal creek that empties out of a salt marsh will serve up a minnow and shrimp smorgasbord on the ebbing tide. You can find them by checking out the Coast and Geodetic survey charts. Visit the chosen creek during the day on a dropping tide and study its character. Memorize the location of the bars, the dropoffs, the eddies, etc. Don't let its shallowness or heavy vegetation put you off, these are not a hindrance to the fly fisherman, a fly won't sink to the bottom during its drift downstream.

You'll have to fish here at night because the fish you seek won't show up here and feed with wild abandon during the day, so check the tide tables and choose a nighttime ebb. Flycasting in the dark is difficult if you haven't practiced. At night you can't watch the fly or the line as you cast and the double haul requires the timing that only practice will bring. Let me put in a little plug for the Salty Flyrodders of New York. They are a dedicated group of enthusiasts and are extremely active. Every weekend they're heading somewhere locally to fly fish, usually from the shore, and are always ready to wecome new members along. The best way to learn all the aspects of the sport from fly tying to landing fish is to join an active club.

I started saltwater fly fishing with a 9 foot rod and a reel loaded with 20 pound backing and a weight forward 10 floating line. This combo allowed me to get good distance against a moderate wind and had the backbone to handle huge flies. When fishing the tidal creeks for weakfish you can go much lighter because the flies are smaller and the casts don't have to be quite so long. I now use a 7 foot 9 inch rod with a six weight line and a 6 pound test tippet. This outfit can push the little streamers to a respectable distance and gives those weakfish a chance to really perform.

As Memorial Day approaches, that dream recurs more and more often for soon I will be standing in the swift flowing creeks of Shelter Island among the "kissing" weakfish.

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AREA PROFILE:

REYNOLDS CHANNEL

Part One — *by David Curti*

I know this article is a change from the norm, but I love to fish and I am not above getting on a boat from time to time, especially if Reynolds Channel is our destination.

I fished the Channel for almost twenty-five years with my uncle, Tony "Cappy" Marzano. Tony and his fishing partner Gus took some fine catches out of the channel over the years. One night Gus returned with a forty pound bass; my uncle once took a fifteen pound fluke by the Long Beach High School.

For those of you who have never fished Reynolds Channel, there are a few landmarks to go by. Entering the Channel from East Rockaway Inlet, you pass underneath the Atlantic Beach Bridge. The bridge itself is a favorite nighttime spot for the local bass sharpies.

About seventy-five yards past the bridge is Banister Creek. The first two hours of outgoing tide have produced a few large tiderunner weakfish for me on more than one occasion. (This fish is at night, of course.)

Buoy 1 is along about mid-channel. The most productive grounds lie on the flats to the left of the buoy, out of the main channel. This holds true with most of the channel, along the marsh side.

A little further up the channel is buoy 3, and just beyond that is the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. The area around the Club has a hard sand bottom unlike the soft mud of the rest of the channel. It is one of the most active feeding grounds and accounts for a good deal of fish, especially during the spring and fall.

One of my favorite areas lies just beyond the Yacht Club and just before buoy 5. The water drops off sharply from about twenty to seventy feet. The bottom is strewn with debris, dating from the construction of the Atlantic Beach Bridge, which was dumped there years ago. For you folks without a depth finder, the easiest way to locate this spot is by landmarks.

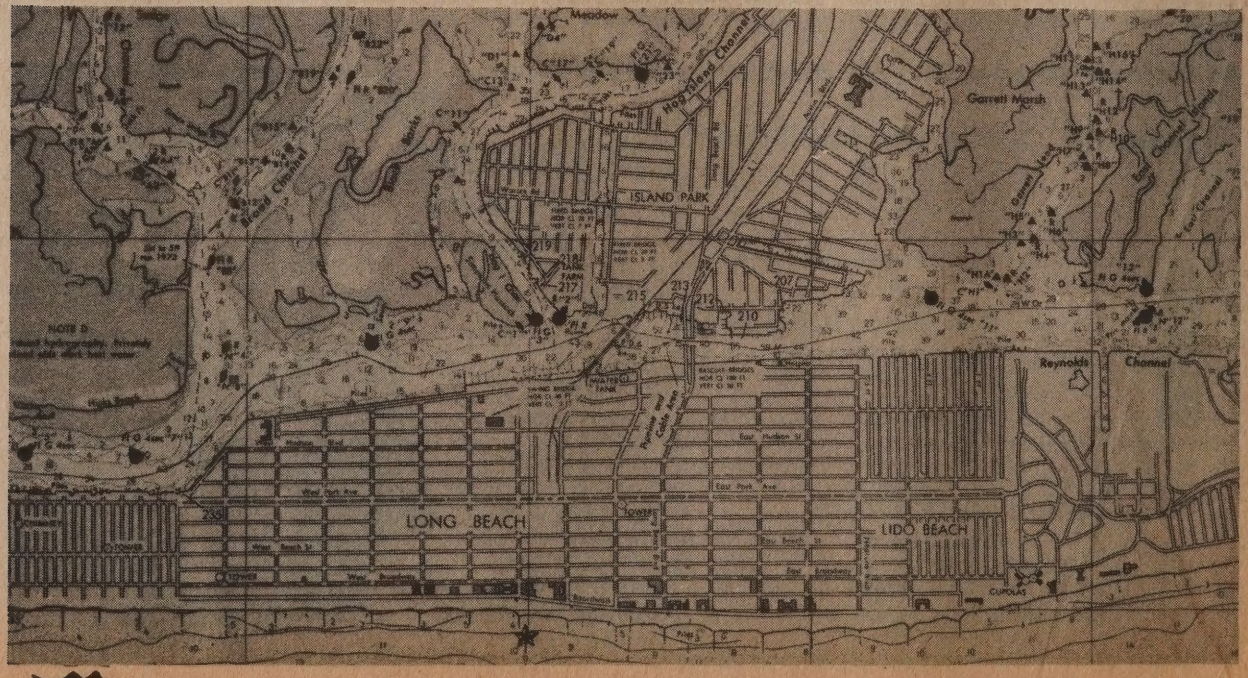
All of the right side of the channel is lined with private homes. There is a small basin that enters into the channel and to the right are the remains of an old pier.

On the marsh side of the hole, there is a beautiful little rip that is just perfect for chumming fluke. One afternoon my uncle and I bagged over seventy fluke at this spot. And would you believe diamond jigging?

The first time I tried this Cappy just chuckled, that is, he chuckled until I came up with a seven pound weakfish. For years after that, everytime I headed the "Cappy's Special" toward the hole I would take a bit of a razzing; but Tony would descend into the cabin and get the jigs.

I love experimenting and as you will see Reynolds Channel has been one of my proving grounds. One dawn, after bass chumming all night, Cappy and I made a drift at high slack water in the hole. Ava 27 jigs had just come out on the market and I decided to give them a try. Tony, being an old bucktailer stuck to his pet method. In any case the half hour of slack water produced three bass and two weakfish. But artificials are not the only means of taking fish in the hole. Bunker and eels dragged across the bottom at night have taken many bass and blues, as well. While whole snappers have produced quite a few weakfish at night and large fluke during the daylight hours.

Buoy 7 marks the spot where one of the prettiest little races has formed from the intersection of Broad and Reynolds Channels. This area is called Duck Point and is one of the hottest fluking areas in the channel. A bar runs in a 90° angle from buoy 7 to Duck Point. It is clearly visible on low water and during the first few hours of incoming water, is a good nighttime spot for chumming weakfish with grass shrimp.



The Long Beach High School area was one of Tony's favorite spots. Here a light southerly wind and incoming tide form the combination that produces best. Start your drift in mid-channel with the corner of the sea wall just to the right, and the first private house to your left. The wind and tide combination will cause your drift to take you over a small dropoff and back up onto the flats which border the marsh beds by one of the many old cottages that are set up on pilings and dot the entire back channels. The water is very shallow on these flats, so do make sure that you have enough water under you, so you don't run aground. Most of your action will occur as you descend and then again as you rise up onto the flats.

My uncle and I once anchored up just before the dropoff, casting bucktails uptide and walking them down current. A nice bunch of fluke was our reward.

However, fluke are not the only fish that favor the area. One day during the fall, we had anchored up for lunch when the rod that I had left in the rod holder, just in case, started bouncing, and finally yielded a nice kingfish. That afternoon, we took over thirty kingfish and two large weakfish as a bonus. Tony was bringing up a small king when suddenly the line went slack.

The rod was almost pulled out of his hands a few seconds later as a big tiderunner tried to make off with the baby king. A little while later, I got a weak also. (By the way, we never did get to have lunch that day.)

The area around buoy 9 is one of the better flounder grounds in the channel. Here, there is a concrete bunker that sticks up out of the water. In actuality this is an outflow pipe from one of the sewage treatment plants. The treated sewage acts as a natural chum slick and the flatties stack up in the area.

Beyond buoy 9 is the Long Island Railroad bridge. The water is fairly deep around the bridge, and heavy concentrations of baitfish gather around the pilings, especially at night. It is a good place for trolling worms and casting bucktails.

To the left of the bridge is the channel that leads into Island Park and Pearsalls Hassock (a sewage storage area). The race at the mouth of the channel produces some very nice fluke. The channel is fairly narrow and the drifts are fast but the fish can really pile up here.

The Channel around Pearsalls Hassock open onto a wide expanse of flats. Anchoring right on the dropoff and chumming has worked for both flounder and fluke.

Well, that pretty much takes care of most of the general landmarks. Like every other fishin' spot, it takes time and patience to really learn an area.

That's it for this week. In future articles, I'll deal with each of the species available in this area.

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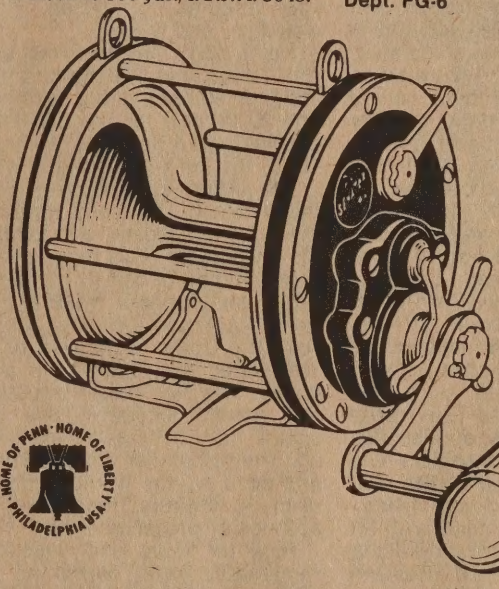

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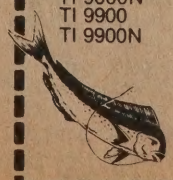

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HI-LO SPELLS VARIETY

by Gerald Hahn

The old song, "Anything Goes," certainly applies to fishing in June, for at this time, various migrating species, as well as some local marine residents, become active. Depending on the weather and water temperature, June may bring forth fluke, blackfish, porgies, weakfish, and bluefish, and quite possibly, mackerel and flounder as well. You never can tell for sure what may be in. For example, one June afternoon last year, my friend Mitch and I caught in quick succession from the same spot, a humpback porgy, a bay-sized flounder, several sea robins, and a nice fluke. Not to be outdone, another person fishing near us, just outside Port Jefferson Inlet, took a 3½ lb. sea bass, several porgies, a blackfish, a dogfish, and believe it or not, a small striped bass. About two weeks before, these waters were clogged with mackerel, but they had departed earlier than usual—overnight, it seems—perhaps because of the previously mild winter. Some outsized blackfish had recently been taken from this area, as well as a few tiderunners, and those inevitable pests of the sea: bergalls, dogfish, sea robins, and sundials. For anglers who like variety, June is one of the best months to catch a mixed bag of fish.

But how does one contend with all these species, short of bringing along a tackle shop full of rigs and lures and a bait shop full of edibles? moreoever, how does one fish for all these species when methods apparently are so different? By example, the day we caught our fish, we had checked with the fishing station owner, who revealed that the previous day, blackfish, a few weaks and fluke had been taken, and that porgies were starting, as well. Flounder and mackerel were out, and blues had not settled in yet, although a few had been caught on mackerel tree rigs. Consequently, we decided to try for four species: blackfish, porgies, weakfish, and fluke.

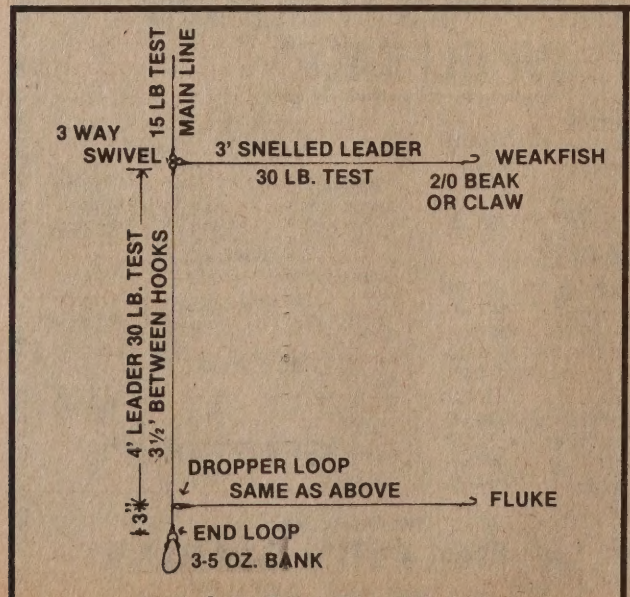
Mitch and I had two rods each for this varied kind of fishing: a medium action 8' spinner with a light surf reel and 20 lb. test for the blackfish and porgies, and a lighter 8' spinner with 15 lb. test for the fluke and weaks.

We picked up some green crabs for the blackfish, squid and sand eels for the fluke and weaks, and sandworms for the porgies. This may seem like a great amount of bait (it is), but with a cooler and ice packs, much of it can be saved for future trips. For example, I soak the frozen sand eels briefly in sea water and break off about a dozen. The rest goes immediately in the cooler. Similarly, one or two squids from a "4-pak" are prepared and the remainder stored. The crabs and sand worms would probably be used up entirely, regardless of the absence or presence of fish.

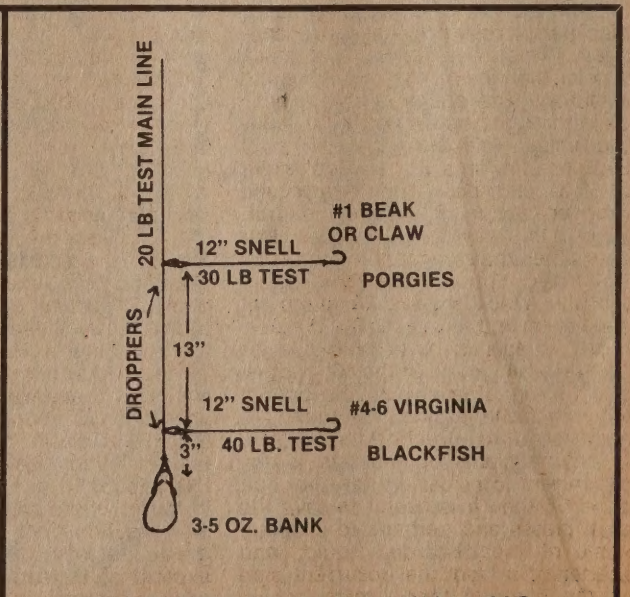
Rigs for fluke and weakfish are remarkably alike, consisting of 2/0 Beak or Claw hooks on long leaders of 30 lb. test. The difference between them is that fluke generally prefer the hook near the bottom whereas weakfish prefer their higher up. Using a hi-lo rig, then, makes it possible to fish for both species at the same time. A hi-lo rig is fashioned with a three-way swivel connected with improved clinch knots to the main line and to a 4' leader of 30 lb. test. At the bottom of the leader, an end loop is tied for the sinker. The top hook, on a 3' snell, is connected to the third eye of the swivel. Near the bottom of the leader (about 3" or 4") above the sinker) a dropper loop is tied for securing the other hook, identical to the top one. A sand eel is impaled on the bottom hook, together with a pennant shaped strip of squid for the fluke. The top hook receives another strip of squid or a whole sandworm for the weaks.

Interestingly enough, both species are also attracted to artificials under an ounce, especially when tipped with squid or a worm: metal lures, leadhead jigs with bucktails or soft plastics, including imitation shrimp, grubs, worms, and the like. These artificials are particularly effective when rigged hi-lo, that is, with a short (12" to 18") leader tied (1½' to 2') above and snelled to the hook mentioned; the rig, with its baited teaser above and lure below, resembles a baitfish chasing a tasty morsel.

Fluke and weakfish are active predators, and fishing methods are similar for both. Drifting is the best way to catch them. On a mild day on L.I. Sound, drifts generally run to the



HI-LO WEAK/FLUKE RIG



HI-LO PORGY/BLACKFISH RIG

northeast on the outgoing tide and to the southwest on the incoming tide. Fluke tend to inhabit the 20' depths and weakfish may be located in the same, or in deeper water. Consequently, on the outgoing tide, it is a good idea to begin drifting fairly close to shore and west of the area selected. The current will pull your boat from shallow to deep water, over ledges and dropoffs, and through a varied terrain—over rocks, weeds, mussel beds, and sandy bottom. On the incoming tide, the drift is reversed, by starting in deep water east of the designated area and heading toward shore. Drifting these ways will cover the most likely spots for both species. It is also possible to anchor on the upcurrent side of a dropoff and chum for fluke and weakfish with ground bunker.

After a couple of hours of drifting for some fluke and no weaks that morning, around buoy 11 and inshore, near a well-known mansion set on a high bluff, we decided to switch to blackfishing. I headed the skiff west to Old Field Pt., on the other side of the inlet, while Mitch prepared the bait—cutting green crabs in half and quartering the large ones. He then removed the outer shells and all the legs and claws. For variety, he left some small ones intact. By preparing a small batch in advance, we would save time, should the blackfish be in. Blackfish are frequently caught within a brief period, around a tidal change, and the bait should be ready.

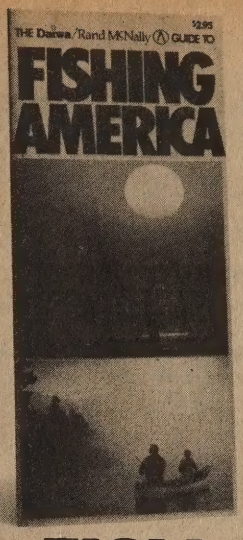
Many fishermen favor a tandem rig for blackfish, with two Virginia hooks, sizes 4 to 6, on 12" snells of 30-40 lb. test, one snell tied to the middle of the other. The two hooks are connected to the main line via a dropper loop about 3" above an end loop for the sinker. A piece of crab meat is put on each hook, impaling it through one claw socket and out another. Fished on the bottom, it is a highly effective rig. But since humpback porgies generally inhabit the same rocky grounds as blackfish, I resort to a hi-lo rig once again. This one, however, is much shorter than the rig used for fluke and weakfish. The bottom Virginia hook goes through one dropper, 3" above the sinker, and the top hook, a #1 Beak or Claw on a 12" snelled leader of 30 lb. test, goes through a second dropper, about 13" above the first. Rigged this way, the two hooks clear each other and separate the scup from the tautog. I put a crab on the bottom for the blackfish and a piece of sandworm on the top for the porgies.

Larger specimens of both species are generally found in the 40' depths, and fishing is strictly on the bottom from an anchored boat. Chumming is very helpful to attracting the porgies. If buying clams or mussels is too expensive (considering all the bait aboard), then it is useful to save the crab pieces and perhaps to chop up some of the discarded squid, and scatter both from the upcurrent side of the boat. If the porgies are in heavily, chumming will not be essential. Many times, the blackfish will follow.

On that day, however, we caught more porgies than blackfish, the bruisers having decided to take the day off. But if we had not been prepared with the right rigs and baits, we might have skunked through this period. A nice mess of humpbacks and a few small tautog were our reward for this effort. By the end of the day, having fished alternately for fluke/weaks and blacks/porgies, we had taken 3/4 of the species, in addition to a fair share of sundials and sea robins, which we released. Sundials, by the way, are members of the flounder family. Like fluke, they are left-sided, and like flounder, they possess no teeth. Sundials are readily discriminated from their relatives, by their beautiful markings and coloration—circular spots on a pale tan field—and by their very thin bodies. Hold one up to the light and you can see through it. Because there is so little meat on their ribs, most fishermen return them to the water. Frankly, I think they are underrated predators, having caught them from the surf on metal lures and from boats on mackerel jigs, diamond jigs, and various baits. As for sea robins, I wish more people would release them, as well, instead of killing them indiscriminately or in a fit of rage. "Trash fish, rough fish, nuisances," whatever one calls them, sea robins are edible, vital to the sea, and moreover, put up a fierce, head-shaking fight.

Which reminds me, one of the nicest things about fishing for a mixed bag, is guessing which species is on when a hit occurs. It's not easy, especially when the current is running. For example, in the midst of a barrage of rod-tip slamming sea robins, I thought I had another one on until it was about halfway up. Then suddenly the rod plunged down with much greater force, and I knew I had a large porgy instead. Then again, a little after catching that aforementioned "bay" flounder, I had an unusual hit. With the current running, I had let out more line than usual, and suddenly it slackened. Upon retrieving the extra line, I felt a soft tug. "It's another flounder!" I called out to Mitch. "Right?" "Wrong!" he laughed as I pulled in a sea robin heading the wrong way.

If you like a diversified fishing day, try L.I. Sound sometime between late May and late June. Actually, mixed bags of fish may be taken elsewhere at this time, as well. In Peconic Bay and Gardiner's Bay, weaks, small blues, macks, porgies, and blackfish, should be available. In the south shore bays, flounder, fluke, small blues and weaks are there for the taking. When several species are likely to be in one area, try using a hi-lo rig, where applicable, and bring along several kinds of bait. Great fun, great variety, and a classroom experience in learning how different species hit and fight. Try "mixing it up" this June!



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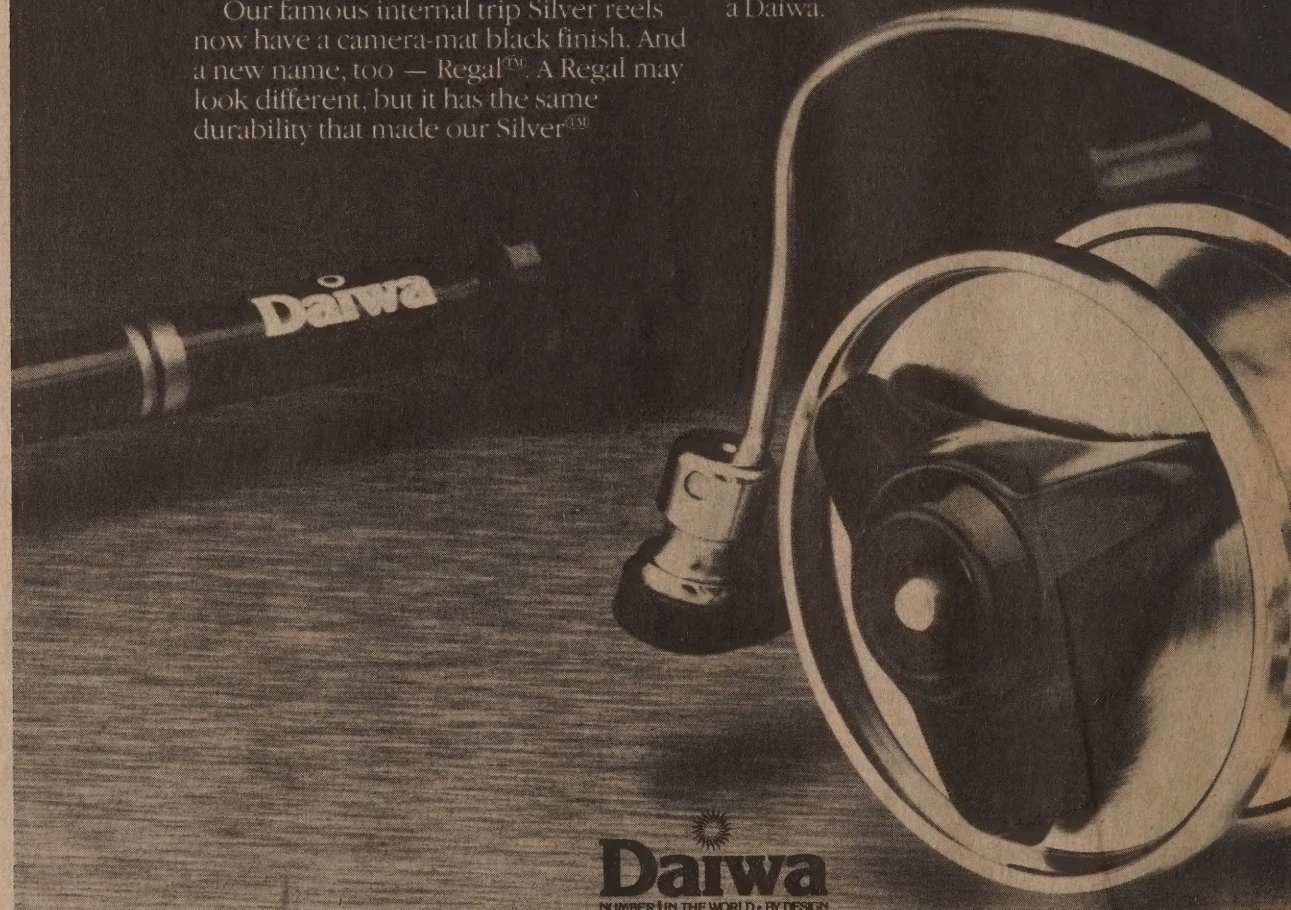

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ON THE MARKET:

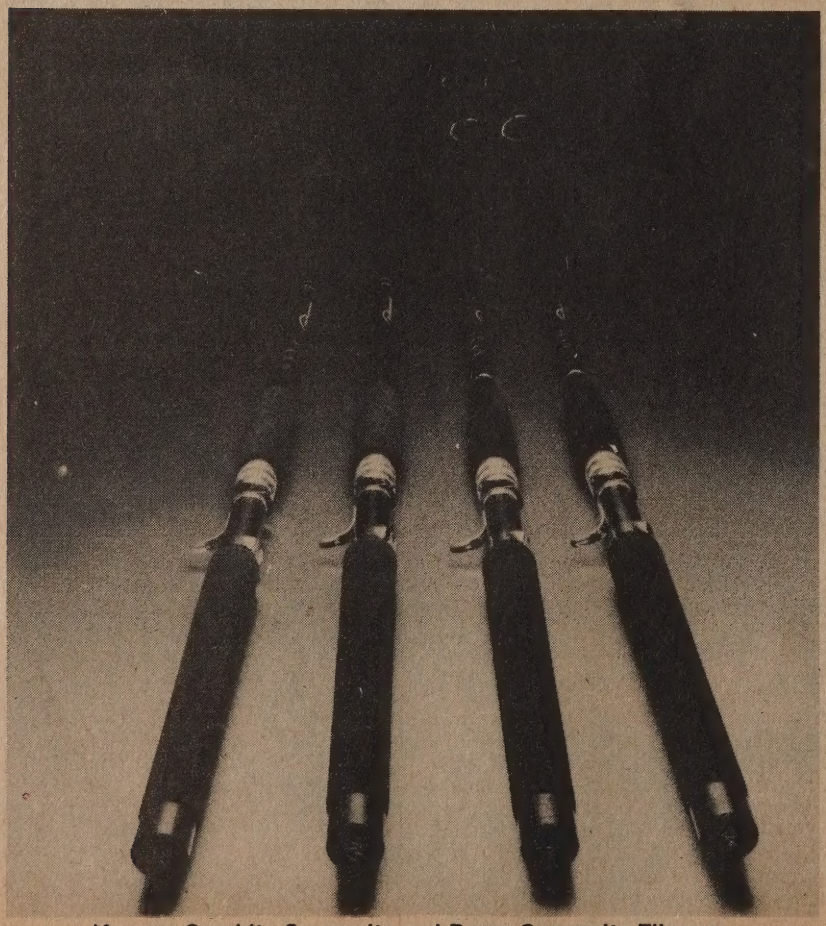
BAITCASTING

Part Two — *by Al Ristori*

Continuing with our discussion on baitcasting equipment, let's take a look at what's available in the rod department. "Exotic" rod materials have made quite an impact on the freshwater baitcasting rod market. Graphite was readily accepted by largemouth bass anglers since it is lighter than glass, but has more power and greater sensitivity. The latter factor is especially important in plastic worm fishing, as the pick-ups are often almost imperceptible. Even the sudden, and often unexplained, breakage of early graphite rods didn't discourage most of the pros. Now that graphite rod-making has advanced to the point where the price has come way down and the reliability is far greater, a new "exotic" material has come on the scene.

Boron provides even greater sensitivity than graphite, but is also harder to work with. Most manufacturers working with the new material have found that it has to be combined with graphite in order to make a fishable rod. The amount of boron used varies with the manufacturer, but it usually ranges from 20% to 50%. Unfortunately, as is the case with graphite, there is no industry standard—and the consumer must take the word of the manufacturer for what he's buying.

Fenwick made a breakthrough in this area with the introduction this year of their 100% boron Boron-X XC555, 5½ ft. baitcasting rod that weighs only 1½ oz. Furthermore, Fenwick claims that only in this fashion can boron deliver its true potential. Browning, Lake King, Shakespeare and other manufacturers feel that their use of the "proper" mix of full length boron fibers, mixed with graphite, does the job as well. The ultimate decision is up to the fisherman. We'll have more to say about boron in a future article on fly tackle.

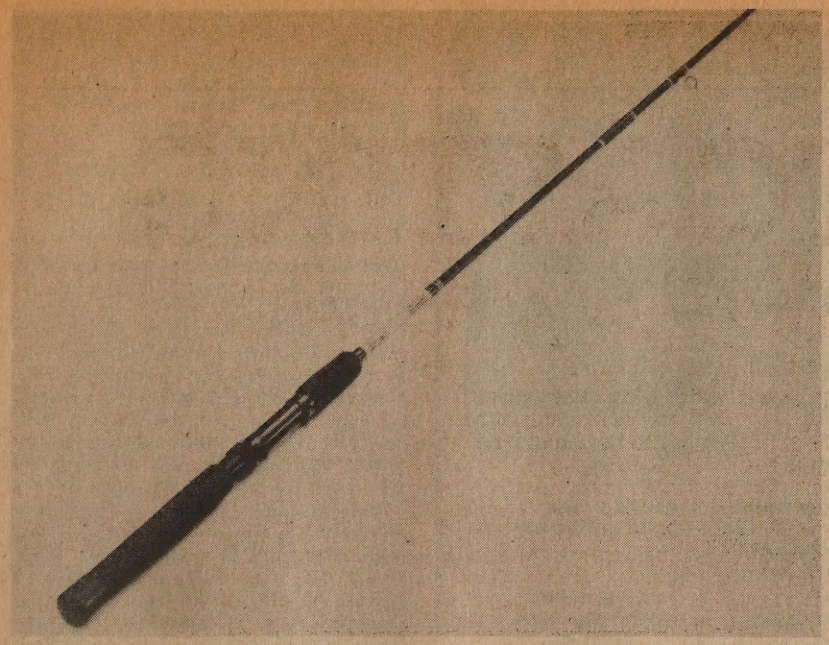


Kunnan Graphite Composite and Boron Composite Flippers.

While the standard freshwater baitcasting rod is usually in the 5½' to 6' class and equipped with a formed, offset handle for one-handed casting, such rods aren't normally used in the briny. Marine anglers favor longer rods that can be casat with two hands, and have learned to steer clear of offset reel seats that become corroded—making reel removal almost impossible. Some saltwater fishermen prefer popping rods, which usually run from 6-3/4' to 7' with a short straight handle and light tip. These rods are popular on the Gulf Coast for casting light lures to redfish and sea trout, but the tips are too light for most area fishing. However, they would prove suitable for most flounder and fluke fishing, plus school stripers and weakfish when light lures are required.

Another specialty rod often overlooked by area anglers is the musky rod. This is usually in the 5½' to 6' range with a very stiff action. I've found it to be a very useful item for both small boat fishing and traveling. The short rod is usually all that's necessary from a small boat, and it takes up little space. Best of all, it can handle any size jig used in inshore fishing, and also the heavy sinkers sometimes required in bottom fishing. When it comes to traveling, musky rods are perfect. Even one-piece models fit into a rod case and still leave plenty of room for bulkier sticks. They have the backbone with which to set a hook in the hard mouth of a tarpon, and work a jig in 150' of water. There are a number of these rods on the market, and I'm particularly pleased with the lightweight graphites. I've had excellent results with the Shimano GMO4585 and Lamiglas 1217—both 5' 8" graphites.

A fairly new specialty model is the "flipping stick." These are 7' to 7½' rods which largemouth bass anglers use much like a cane pole for dropping a lure to bass in the shallows or flipping it under branches. Most are made in one piece with a telescoping handle to bring it down to traveling length. Fenwick's 775-2 was the first of these rods, but almost



Heddon MagnaGraph and two-piece flipping rod.

everyone's in on the act this year. Lew Childre has introduced Dip 'N Stick models in both graphite and fiberglass, and Shakespeare has the BCF 1100 Ugly Stik. Daiwa has two 7½' Pitchin' rods in the new graphite composite Prolite series and Lamiglas has a graphite selection in the 1219. Berkley features the S35 in its Shadow series with the graphite composite tip and Cotton Cordell is promoting the GJ76. Varying from these 7½ footers with telescoping handles are Skyline's 7', one-piece SKC 7002 and Heddon's two-piece 7½' MagnaGraph 8012. Kunnan has flipping rods in both boron and graphite composite that are seven foot one-piece models with detachable butts. All of these rods are fairly stiff and may well prove very handy for saltwater use.

Shakespeare has lots of new baitcasters in their Sigma selection, both in the 1000 series graphites and 1600 series fiberglass lines. The graphites include a 5' 2'' light action and three 5½' models of light to medium actions—all one-piece and retailing in the $40 area. The Graflon boron/graphite composite series includes three 5½' one piece models with medium to heavy actions and the new Omni guides—a continuous stainless steel ring that is supposed to be more wear-resistant than other guides. The new Graphmaster 1020 graphite series includes two 5½' one piece baitcasters of medium and medium/light actions. The famous Ugly Stik line includes many baitcasters. Saltwater anglers can select from five, one piece ''big water'' numbers and three downrigger models. Check out the Ugly Stik 5½' and 6' musky rods. The new Alpha and Black Stik lines provide some economy freshwater selections.

Fenwick's biggest move this year was with the new Boron-X model, but they still retain a huge selection of HMG graphite rods and fiberglass Lunkersticks. A single HMG addition this year is the GFC-607, a 6' powerhouse rated for 15 to 30 lb. test lines. A 5½' casting rod is included in the new Blackhawk series with ''universal'' actions. Two 8' 2'' fiberglass Riggersticks have also been added for downrigger fans.

Daiwa has eight 5' to 6' casting rods in the new Prolite graphite composite series, in addition to the two Pitchin' rods previously noted. Retail on these fine rods should be in the $40 area. Daiwa's exclusive Dynaflo guides are featured on these rods and also the graphite Procaster Bill Dance Signature models and the fiberglass V.I.P. selection. The Regal Silver series includes two new 1-pc. heavy action models of 5' and 5½'.

Lew Childre is making a new ''low'' in price for graphite rods with the introduction of an American-made series that should retail at only $35. Included are casting models of 5½' in light, medium, and heavy actions that feature Fuji handles and Fuji aluminum oxide Hard Speed Ring guides. Models of 4' 10'' and 6' have been added to the economy Graph-''Fighter'' graphite line, and the top-of-the-line Speed Sticks now have a new handle system that provides a graphite to graphite union for maximum sensitivity.

Browning has four casting rods in their Boron line, plus an 8¼' steelhead model. Though the price tags run over $100, these rods have been selling very well.

Berkley has one piece casting rods of 5' 2'' and 5½', plus a two piece six footer, in their new boron/graphite/glass composite Titan series. Similar models can also be found in the graphite composite Bounty Hunter line—along with the 5' 10'' H19 one piece musky rod.

(Continued on next page.)

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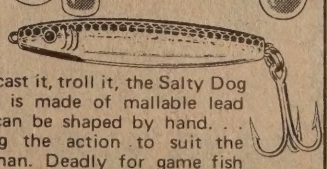

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Zebco makes lots of casting rods that will work as well with their famous spincasters as with baitcasting reels. The new Formula Z graphite/glass series features two 5½' one piece (and one 6' two piece) casting rods, while the new low-end Sundowner fiberglass series provides several models that have ceramic guides and glass-to-glass ferrules.

Abu-Garcia divides many of their rods into specialized categories. For instance, the Thunder Stik Bass series includes three 5¼ to 5½ ft. casting rods in boron composite, plus four more in graphite composite, and five in fiberglass. Within that group, the bass angler can choose just the model he wants at a price he can afford. The Sniper Striper series includes a couple of 5½' casting rods and the 7333, 6' 10'' popping rod—all fiberglass.

Shimano has a relatively short line of rods, but those they produce are both attractive and functional. Featured this year is the new line of Karate Stick casting rods—one piece graphites of 5' 2'' and 5½'. Lamiglas has ten 8' to 9' steelhead models in the top-rated Esprit Graphite line, and a couple of 7' popping rods in the Graphite selection. Heddon's new MagnaGraph graphite/magnesium glass series includes six casting models and a musky rod with offset handle. A new model in the Heddon MagnaRod series is the 5005 Zara Spook, a 5' 8'' rod designed for ''walking'' that famous Heddon lure.

Eagle Claw has several new Select rods this year, including a 7½' downrigger model, a 5' walleye rod, and 7' popping rods in both graphite and fiberglass. The graphite Blue Diamond series has been expanded a bit, and the economy-priced Denco Super 4 line is being wrapped with Nylock shrink material. Skyline provides a large selection of 100% graphite casting rods, plus such specialty numbers as 7' and 8' popping rods with blanks extending through the cork handles. Olympic has added some casting models to its 7000 series, along with a 6' musky rod and 7' popping rod.

Pflueger has three 5½' casting rods in the new boron/graphite Supreme series, and has added a 7' flipping rod to the graphiate Medalist line.

Kunnan has dozens of new models for the baitcaster, including four 5½' footers in the 100% graphite Basic Bassers line and nine casting rods in the glass Pro Bassers series. Five models in the 5' to 5½' range are offered in boron composite, and there are still others in graphite and graphite composite. Lake King has an extensive selection of casting rods in both boron composite and graphite, and St. Croix has the 5½' one piece 3303 worm rod in the new graphite composite Graph-X series.

NOTE: Virtually all quality baitcasting rods now have aluminum oxide guides (exceptions are noted in this article), and the one-handed casting models invariably have offset pistol grip handles.

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD/POLLACK

Capt Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** had a group led by Jim Rossidis of the NYTA and they had 71 flounders from 1 to 3½ lbs., 36 porgies and 3 blackfish on Saturday fishing Colodin Point and Shagwong.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** emphasized that the porgies have started. The private boat Serenity had 150 porgies up to 3 lbs. and 100 flounders up to 2½ lbs. working Gardiner's, both tides with the changes being best with clam on Sunday. The private boat Irish Mist had 8 pollack up to 30 lbs. Sunday SE of Block trolling black and red umbrellas. Marvin Becker and Moe Stome on Marvin's boat Sham-rocket had 12 flounders up to 3½ lbs. fihsing off Gin Beach on clam on incoming tide Saturday.

Capt Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** called to say that a regular, Tony, from Wading River scored wth 12 cod Sunday from 4 to 12 lbs. on the Cox's Ledge trip. Al Kelly of East Rockaway filled his sack with 11 cod from 4 to 12 lbs. A 35 lb. cod took the pool Sunday. Saturday saw good scores made also as the skipper says there is a good volume of fish on the ledge. A few pollack and big hake have also been yanked, all on bait. Local flounders on the Fleet's half-day boat have been doing well fishing Shagwong and Gin Beach with the first and last of the ebb working best, with clam as hook bait. A few porgies have been mixed in as well.

Ed Beneduci caught this 63½ lb. cod at Southwest Ledge on his boat Pepe II. It is the largest weighed at Montauk Marine Basin so far this season.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports that the bass fishing picked up this week. His charter Monday had 12 stripers and Wednesday's charter had 13. Bill Lapinsky of Bayshore had 9 bass Thursday a.m. and in the afternoon followed that with another 8 fish, all in the 20 to 30 lb. class. One weighed in at 36 lbs. for Jake Caruso. Fishing was off the Point on umbrellas. Lots of sand eels in the water and bass are spitting them up along with little porgies.

The **Capt Willie** says it's been a tremendous flounder spring for his open boat customers. He is now getting flounders up to 2 lbs., with some porgies up to 2¾ lbs. and a few incidental sea bass. Skipper Bill Butler says he is now starting to fluke sailing half day trips.

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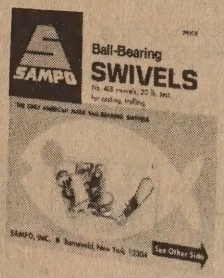

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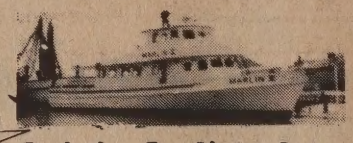

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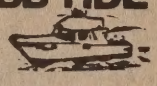

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Capt Henry Harris of the charter boat **Snapshot V** says that this year he will be concentrating on shark and that he still has some excellent shark dates open.

Star Island Yacht Club reports that one of the charter boats sailing from **Star Island** has been getting 6 to 8 stripers a trip up to 35 lbs. up until Friday on umbrellas. The pollack fishing remains good off Block Island on diamond jigs and on bait and flounder action remains good on worm and clam at Tobacco Lot and Shagwong.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

Capt Clark II reports weakfishing in Peconic Bay seems to be very erratic this season with some good days followed by some poor days. The pool fish each day is in the 11 to 12 lb. range. Friday, Herman Matthews of the Bronx boated 3 big weakfish along with 42 good sized porgies. He took the pool with an 11 lb. weak. Porgy fishing is consistently good with fish 1 to 3 lbs. The skipper sees a good solid porgy season ahead.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported that Eastern Plains Point continues to produce good flounder and blackfishing. Fishing between Rocky Pt. and Culloden Pt. over the weekend, Walt Bonnenberger and 12-year-old Walt Nickelson returned with 57 flounder from 1½ to 3 lbs. along with a dozen blackfish. Good porgy fishing continues at buoy 18 in Peconic Bay with worm, squid and clams all taking fish. Fish run from 1 to 2¼ lbs. As for the weakfishing, Thom labelled it as slow over the weekend. Thom knew too of three big fluke taken on the charter boat Kim. The fish weighed 8, 10 and 12 lbs. and came from the Rose's Grove area. In Shinnecock Bay, pretty good flounder action from West Channel to Heady Creek with one customer returning with 25 nice flatties over the weekend. Fluke fishing getting started in the Bay but most are shorts. Don Avondolio of the Salty Flyrodders relayed word of a catch made by fellow members Ron Milaw and Joe Falke in Peconic Bay. Between Friday and Saturday, the pair totalled 61 weaks from 4-10 lbs. at the Middle Grounds on squid strips. Twenty of the fish were released by the anglers.

HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Fishing Station** reported that weakfish action in Peconic Bay tapered off while fluking in Shinnecock Bay improved. Also in Shinnecock Bay, the Basket Area continues to produce very good flounder scores. Worms working best on the flatties while killies have been accounting for most of the fluke action.

MORICHES BAY

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** reported good size flounder being taken from buoys 33-39 on bloods and mussels. Boats averaging 40 to 50 fish apiece and according to Gary, it appears that the fish are concentrating more in the deeper water. A pretty good showing of fluke along the edge of the channel at buoy 38. Better than 50 percent of the fish are keepers and many are in the 2-3 lb. class.

At **Tadsen's Fishing Station**, Ed reported a good flounder weekend along Great Gun Beach, and west of buoy 29. Biggest flattie on Saturday was 2.5 lbs. by Al Nives while Sunday's best flattie, taken by Vinnie St. John was 2.6 lbs. Fluke have made a showing with one boat on Saturday taking 24 keepers along with many shorts. The anglers were Bill and Lucille Monsees. The pair used killies in the buoy 20 area.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

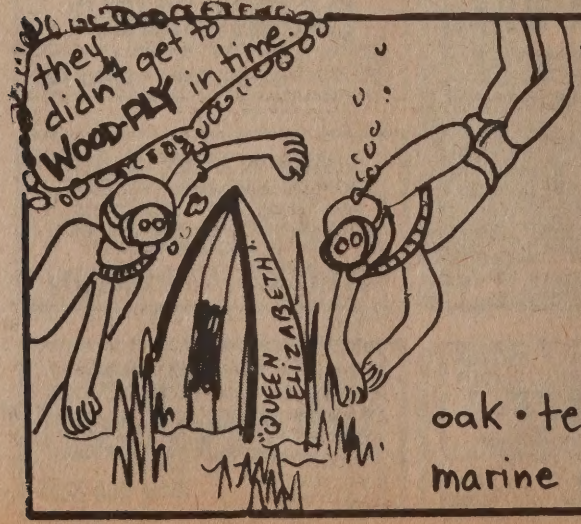
Gary from **Stiriz' Fishing Station** reported very good flounder fishing continues from buoy 25 to 29. Boats taking up to 70 fish apiece on bloodworms, mussels and clams. Fluke fishing very good from buoy 17 to 23 on all the usual baits. The average catch of keepers per boat has been in the 20-30 fish range. In addition, many shorts are being taken. Some weakfish at buoys 12 and 13, while some decent blowfish catches have been made at buoy 19. Bass being taken under the Smith Point bridge on sand worms and live eels.

WEST SAYVILLE

Bill reported that weakfishing remains good in the area. Fish are being taken at Ocean Beach as well as on the Heckscher flats. Gary McDonald and Ron Trotta returned with 15 weaks all in the 10 lb. range, taken on sand worms Sunday. Porgies, fluke and blowfish are mixed in with the weaks.

EAST ISLIP

Irene of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** checked in a pair of weaks but more importantly, a pair of 8 lb. fluke which gobbled sand worms being drifted for weakfish at Ocean Beach on Sunday. Anglers were Jim Kavanaugh and



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Ed Ditolla and his two sons Kevin and Eddie, with 60 flounder in the 1-1½ lb. class taken at buoy 41 in Moriches Bay. They used bloodworms and mussel chum and left from Silly Lily Fishing Station.

Bob Shafrauek. Quite a few fluke being taken in the State Channel and in the inlet area but many are shorts and must be returned. Ocean Beach and West Channel continue to produce some big weaks on sand worms but the fishing is far from good. Most boatmen settle for one or two of the tiderunners.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** reported that fluke trips have been averaging between 40-80 keepers a day with a lot of shorts mixed in. Fishing is being done in the State Channel, near the lighthouse, Snake Hill Channel, Dickerson Channel and West Channel. On Saturday, Vincent Canizio of North Bay Shore decked a 5.14 lb. fluke. This fish currently leads the boat's free fishing for life contest which guarantees the winner a lifetime of free fishing trips aboard the Casey Lee. Of the weakfishing, Neil described the fishing as erratic and said that the better nights produce from 10 to 20 weaks a trip. Action on Saturday was poor, while Sunday's trip resulted in 10 of the tiderunners being taken. Fishing is being done in West Channel, near the light and at Ocean Beach. The skipper reminded that Sunday, June 7 will be his last weakfish trip.

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported that Bay Shore Tuna Club member Dan Azzato on his Danielle II fished West Channel on Sunday and using white jelly worms put away 3 weaks and 2 blues including a tiderunner of 13½ lbs. Larry and Bill Wonoski aboard the Four Skis took 5 weaks up to 11½ lbs. Carl added that porgies, sea bass and blowfish are also available on the Ocean Beach grounds along with the weaks.

CAPTREE

Bobby at **Captree Bait Station** said that fluke have become the number one attention getter at the boat basin, although night boats are still working on the weakfish. Bobby said that the fluke have been providing lots of action, but many of the fish must be returned to the water as they are under the 14'' minimum. Biggest weakfish weighed in over the weekend was a 12.10 tiderunner taken by James Wagner aboard the **Captree Queen**.

Captain Richie Leitch of the **Capt. Leitch IV** reported good fluking in the State Channel and in the Inlet area. The keeper to throwback ratio was about 50-50 although the fish around the Inlet appear to run larger. Both sand eels and spearing have been effective with the last part of the flood and the first of the ebb the best tide. Saturday's fishing was better than Sunday when strong northwest winds hindered drifting.

The charter boat **Lady Ann** has been enjoying lots of action with fluke, although much of it is being provided by undersized fish. Even at that, the boat is still returning with anywhere from 50-80 keepers a day fishing in the State Channel, near the lighthouse and in the inlet area. On Saturday, Frank Scalia of Oak Beach took a 6.9 lb. doormat. This was one of the bigger summer flatties of the season.

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Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** described the fluking as okay during the week, but picky on the weekend. Fishing is being done through the State Channel and around the Robert Moses bridge. A good percentage of the fish being taken are shorts, but anglers still end up with enough keepers to make it worthwhile. The skipper labeled the weakfishing as fair describing a catch of 11 fish made on Saturday at West Channel and Ocean Beach. Both sand worms and jelly worms have been effective and the pool fish each trip is easily in the 12 lb. class.

The **Captree Queen II** said that fluking slowed over the weekend with mostly small fish being taken in the State Channel along with a few nice keepers mixed in. Both sand eels and killies have been taking the fish. Weakfishing has been fair but erratic, according to Gordon. Saturday's fishing provided some of the best action of the year with over 30 weaks from 8-12 lbs. taken. Jelly worm and sand worm combos accounted for many of the fish. Jim and Charley Wagner had 5 weaks between them on Saturday. While on Sunday, a Freeport Tuna Club member, John Brommer took the pool with a 10¾ lb. weak. Catches most nights ranged from 10 to 18 fish.

The charter boat **Eleanor** fished a party on Saturday from Brazill Brothers of New Jersey. They did a fair job on the flounder at the Sore Thumb and down off of Kismet. Larger fish were found at the Thumb. Dyed clams and worms both took fish according to the skipper, who reminded that he still has some night shark dates available.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported a good day with the fluke on Sunday when fares left the boat with 4-10 keepers apiece. Plenty of action with short fish kept anglers busy throughout the day. On Saturday's afternoon trip, 20 weakfish along with a few blues were taken including a 13 lb. weak. PM trips have been averaging 6-15 weaks a night.

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BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** said that eight boats; all members of the newly formed Long Island Canyon Anglers attempted a run to the Canyon on Saturday. Six of the eight boats were turned back short of the dropoff by dense fog. They still managed to get in plenty of action with small blue sharks, according to Ralph while the two boats that continued on to the Canyon settled for one tilefish between them. Ralph, who made the run offshore, noted that there were lots of big blues in 90' of water south of the inlet. Weakfishing, which has been picky in Great South Bay, livened up on Sunday when some boatmen scored handily in the West Channel area. Sand worms, sinking Rebels and jelly worms all took fish. Of the fluke, plenty of fish around the inlet area, although many are small. One customer using sand eels and squid took 35 of the flatties and kept only seven.

Babylon Fishing Station reported fluke and weaks keeping the rental customers busy this past week. Tom Dicker and Bob Boyle, along with Gene Zysk did a job on the fluke. The trio returned to the station with 40 keepers which was exceptional due to the large number of short fluke in the area. Most boats have been fishing the State Channel and sand eels have been the number one bait. Some good weakfishing in West Channel on Sunday as demonstrated by Ben Schmedites who drifted sand worms 2' off the bottom and returned with 11 weaks weighing a total of 110 lbs.

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★ BEST BET ★
FLDR./FLUKE

LINDENHURST

Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle weighed in a 7½ lb. blackfish taken on Saturday by Joe Vitale aboard his boat the Who-Me. Joe was drifting sand worms near the lighthouse in search of weakfish at the time. For fluke, the Amity Cut and live killies seem to be the best combination, but here again, short fish are the rule. Umbrella rig trollers continue to take fish on white or green tubes in the inle area. These fish range from 2-6 lbs. The Surfside 3 Tuna Club held their annual weakfish tournament on Sunday. First place was taken by Bob Anthony with a 9 lb. 1 oz. weak. Second went to Dennis Bofinger with an 8 lber., while 11-year-old Richie Ferri, Jr. nailed down the 3rd spot with a 7 lb. 14 oz. weak.

AMITYVILLE

From **Combs Bait and Tackle** comes word that flounder are still being taken at the 3rd bridge and down in Swift Creek in the Freeport area. Fluke fishing provided good action although many of the fish taken must be returned. George named Ft. Neck Point, Four Corners, West Island and State Channel near Zachs Bay as the best spots. He suggested using a hi-low rig while fluking to increase the odds of picking up a weakfish at the

same time. For weaks, best bets are the Copiague Hole and the Zachs Bay area. Some bass clam chummed in the State Channel and at the Wantagh bridges, along with lots of blues trolled in 30' of water off of Lido on umbrella rigs. Bluefish also being trolled in Great South Bay from Kismet to the inlet. George noted that a few blue claw crabs are starting to show in the Bay.

SEAFORD

From **Capt. Eddies Fishing Station** Art said there are still flounder being taken west of the 2nd and 3rd bridges. Lots of Massapequa Cove although many are shorts. One angler had 20 of the summer flatties and kept only four. A few blowfish mixed with the fluke and flounder and blackfish being taken at the bridges.

Lon at **Wansers Bait and Tackle** relayed word that flounder continue to hang in at Squaw Island, Zachs Bay, the 2nd bridge and the Meadowbrook bridge. On Saturday, Vic Torgrimsen, Jr. of Seaford checked in a 2 lb. 12 oz. flattie which he took at the Meadowbrook. As to the fluke, lots of the flatfish spread throughout the Bay. However, a large percentage of them are undersized. Sand eels and squid combos have proven to be the best bait. Lon knew also that some bass were plugged and live lined in the State Channel this past week, while boatmen drifting sand worms near the Meadowbrook at night managed to pick a few weakfish.

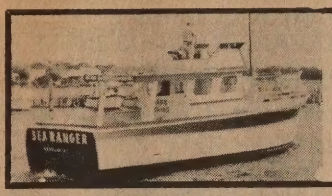
BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** was enthused about the run of big stripers along the beach from Lido to the Rockaways. Boatmen have been trolling large and small bunker spoons, Alou Eels and big Sekora Surge Tubes to take stripers in the 20-50 lb. class. Blues are mixed in with the stripers. On the inside, there are still flounder to be caught with a few blows mixed in in Merrick Bay and near the Wantagh bridges. Fluke are being taken although a good percentage of the fish must be returned. Best bait has been sand eels and squid.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reported that flounder fishing in the area has just about had it, with most anglers now concentrating on fluke. Lots of the summer flatfish being taken, but many of them are shorts. Largest of the weekend was a 6½ lber. Action has been on sand eel and squid combos at Merrick Point and in the Inlet area. The big news around the station was all of the blues being jigged and trolled in 30' of water outside the Inlet. Boats loaded up with choppers in the 7-8 lb. class this past week. On Saturday, small blues, 1-2 lbs. were in good supply for casters and jiggers inside the inlet.

CAPTREE



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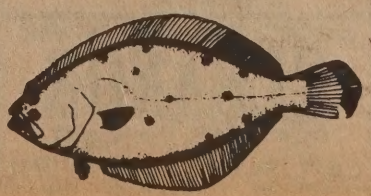
Small blackfish at the bridges on worms and fiddlers.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells of blues in the Jone's Inlet area from 2 to 5 lbs. on umbrellas. Lots of short fluke around plus a few keepers at the Reynold's Channel Jone's Inlet Junction. This is on sand eels. Some flounders on worms in Middle Bay and Scow Creek. Blue claw crabs beginning to show with a few 6" across the shell.



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WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

FREEPORT

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service, Acme II** reports the season's best flounder trip so far for the **Acme II** at the Crooked Stick, weighted down fast water produced a steady pick of 1½ to 2 lb. flounders with an occasional 2½ pounder. This was for Joe and Sal Luccisano, family and friends. This was a weekday trip with a lot of activity that saw a few keeper fluke as a bonus. Saturday's trip led by Jack Eagans and a group from Sperry was not that eventful. Anchored in Swift Creek, socked in with fog, they had loads of grass on the ebbing tide. Nevertheless, they had a steady pick of flounders and fluke to begin the day, but it ended up in a slow pick. Some keeper fluke and flounder up to 2 lbs. were taken in the corn field. The pool went to Rocky Nasso with a 3 pounder. Sunday's flounder charter for Jack Tholke of Eastern RR Association and group had some smaller flounders and a few keeper fluke. Walt says he is looking for a run of weakfish for his weekday specials.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** called to say that the **III & IV** have finished up the flounder season in grand style and both boats have now switched over to fluke exclusively. Tuesday through Friday saw fabulous flounder action with hi hook in the 50 to 60 keeper range on flounders up to 3 lbs. The weekend was good but not as good as the week days, due to the heavy boat traffic. Those scores were on the full day boat. The half day boat also did an excellent job with hi hooks steadily in the 30 to 35 keeper flounder range during the week. A 4½ lb. fluke was picked Friday afternoon as were 3 bluefish in the 4 lb. class. Customers want fluke so the boats are switching over.

Capt Richie on the **Starstream II** has been working schools of big ling and also taking a few sea bass and blacks. The main part of the catch has been ling and the boat is fishing locally within an hour of the dock. Please note that all tickets are sold for Saturday June 6th.

The **Aloma II**, fishing 2 fluke trip daily, reports both morning trips Saturday and Sunday saw catches of 6 to 8 keeper fluke a man working Jone's Inlet. Fish were in the 15 to 16'' range with a few fish in the 4 lb. class on sand eels and squid.

The **Capt Al** has been concentrating this past week and weekend on sea bass and ling and scoring with

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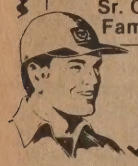

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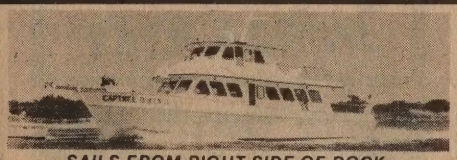

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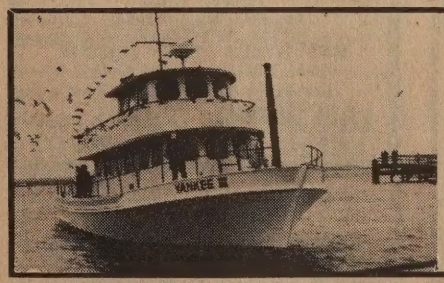

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substantial catches of these bottom feeders. He is also getting a few blackfish mixed in.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** on Tuesday and Wednesday had all the Lynbrook 5th Graders out and they had very good catches of flounders up to 2 lbs. fishing locally on clam bait. On the **BF II** Capt Ed Geyer had Kerry Csontos of Clifton Park NY and group out for flounders with catches being made at the Coast Guard Station and Swift Creek, outgoing water best on clam and worm. Both boats over the weekend fished locally in Swift Creek, Fundy Bay and at the Coast Guard Station for flounders which continue to be obliging. Hi hook and pool winner Saturday was Vinnie Giudice of Flushing with 38 flounders and a 2 lb. 1 oz. pool fish. Pool winner Sunday was Kate Rohrbach of NYC with a 2 lb. 1 oz. flounder. Clam and worm did it locally with corn and clam chum. Some fluke, mostly shorts, but a beginning. See ad for details on special July 4th shark trip.

Larry at **Mako Marina** tells us that Don Moore fished Reynold's Channel and took 14 keeper fluke Saturday on killie/squid combos. On Sunday the charter boat **Apus** had 9 blue shark up to 110 lbs. fished 165' of water SE of Jone's with a water temp of 60.4 degrees. Mike also had dozens of jumbo blues.

The **Super Spray II** has been doing nicely on their 2 a day fluke trips with a good number of fat keeper fish taken from the Jone's Inlet area on sand eels and squid. Booking fast is the June 20th cod wreck trip. See ad for details. An earlier cod wreck trip was a big fish catching success.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that Saturday saw many of the boats scoring with flounders. Corsair totaled 107 flatties up to 2 lbs. fishing locally. Norsman had 150 flounder from 1 to 2 lbs. also fishing local creeks and channels. True Blue VI had 120 flounder. On Sunday the Atlantic had 120 keeper fluke taken from the Debb's Inlet area of Reynold's. The pool fish went 3½ lbs. Sand eels and squid were the tempters.

Lou's Fishing Station says the weekend was very good fish wise. Flounders are still being caught in good numbers locally with Swift Creek and the Coast Guard Station producing well on worms and clam. A lot of short fluke at the Inlet on incoming tide with a fair sprinkling of keepers. Lots of blacks on the offshore wrecks such as the Twreck and Rodia wreck and at all the bridges. Weekdays have produced best on fiddlers. Phil Mazzelli on his boat Sundancer loaded up on blues fishing SW of the HA, chumming. These were good solid fish not the big head skinny body variety.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports a very good fish weekend. One rental boat brought back 13 keeper fluke from Fundy Bay on spearing and sand eels. Mixed bags of flounder, black and some fluke adorned the bottoms

of most rental boats. Fish were taken from Swift and Long Creeks, Merrick Bay and blacks from the Meadowbrook Bridge area.

The **Capt Gary** on Sunday fished TSS, Oceanside, and they had a good day on flounder. Hi hook was Herb Vail with 23 flounders. The pool fish, a 2¼ pounder went to Joe Wilson. William Marsden, age 8, got his first fish ever. This Saturday, the boat will be running open for fluke at 8 a.m.

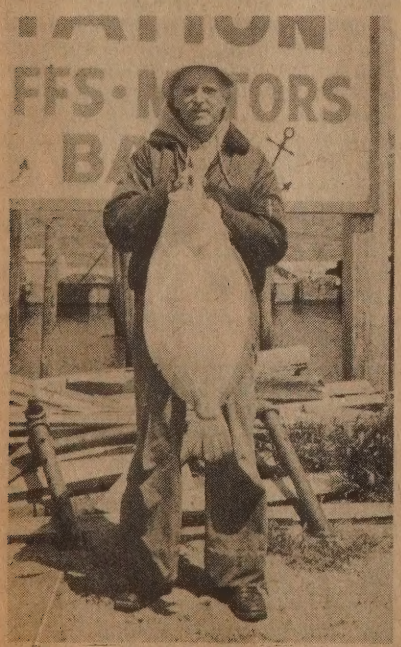
The **Miss Freeport** ended up the spring flounder season with good catches all week long and is now swinging over to fluke by popular demand.

Tony says it looks like a good fluke season coming up.

Capt Dan Polara of the charter boat **Nan-Sea** called to say that Sunday he fished SE of Jone's in 125' of water and had 30 bluefish from 10 to 15½ lbs. on chunk bait fished 10' down. A 72 lb. blue shark was taken by Ron Spinnelli of Inwood. All fishing was done on light tackle. The blues have been spitting out 5'' herring.

POINT LOOKOUT

Charter boat **Marie III** on Saturday had a group of Frenchman from the UN out and they did fair in the morning on flounders off the Jone's Beach piers and in Swift Creek. They hit the Meadowbrook Bridge at low slack and did pretty well with flounders up to 1¾ lbs. on regular and yellow dyed clam. Lots of short fluke while anchored at the bridge. Sunday's trip for the Elmont-Franklin Square Fishing Club fished the Meadowbrook at high slack and slaughtered flounder, many up to 2 lbs. Several 3'' pollack were taken on both days. A few blacks and sea bass



Roy Mueller hefts his 15 lb. fluke taken on sand eel bait in Reynolds Channel. Photo courtesy of Ed's Fishing Station.

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also were pulled at the Meadowbrook. They fluked in the afternoon with only 10 percent of the fish caught being legal. This was squid/sand eel combos in Reynold's.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of a 33 lb. striper that fell to a trolled bunker spoon in 25' of water off Lido for Steve Fratengelo of Brooklyn on his boat Gemini. Plenty of blues from 25' on out on wire and umbrellas. Surface feeding blues are hitting plugs and tin. The Point Lookout jetty is another spot to prob. Blacks a good item for the weekend at the Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers. One rental skiff had 81 lbs., high slack best. Twenty five percent of hooked fluke are keepers in the 2 to 5 lb. range on sand eel/ squid combos. Best is from Reynold's Channel and from the Meadowbrook to the Inlet. Good flounders remain at Swift Creek. One regular on Thursday had 65 flounders at the Junction of Swift Creek and Sloop Channel.

Ed's Fishing Station says that flounders are petering out in Reynold's Channel but is still very good in Swift Creek and off the flats off Middle Bay on worms and clam. Lots of short fluke with a few keepers up to 4 lbs. from the Inlet all the way around to the Point Lookout Bridge on squid and killies. Fluke up to 4 lbs. are being taken. Steve Koretz of Mineola fluking at buoy 16 took a 13 lb. bluefish on squid/killie combo. Small blues at the mouth of the Inlet through the Lido Hotel on tin, tubes or umbrellas. Very good blackfishing at the Twreck and all bridges.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook tells of continued good blackfishing at the bridges and wrecks on fiddlers and green crab. Plenty of fluke including lots of midgets in Reynold's Channel, Duck Point and from the Inlet to the mouth of Reynold's. That's on sand eels and squid. Flounders are still hitting worm bait at the holes in Swift Creek and Reynold's Channel. A lot of blues are being trolled off Atlantic Beach and the Rockaways as are some striped bass. Bass are also hitting plugs such as Rebels and red fins from the beach in this area. Some 3 to 12 lb. blues are finding their way into the fish box via this method also. Also try the West End Beach and jetty for blues at night. Charlie says he has clam bellies in all different size containers for all you clam chummers.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** tells of a good showing of fluke with lots of action. Twenty five percent of the fish are keepers. Frank Herskowitz of Oceanside had 18 keeper fluke Wednesday. Bill Fundulas had 8 keepers including a 5½ lb. pool fish. The boat is fishing the inlets and main channels around Jone's Inlet and Deb's Inlet. Spearing bait seems to be working best. Sunday was a tough day due to the heavy boat traffic. Saturday saw fares averaging 5 to 6 keepers plus mucho midgets. Deb's Inlet seems to have more keepers on the flood. Fluke are being taken on the inside on both tides. On Sunday some boats had fluke off the Warrior buoy. There is a good showing of fluke all around and you can stay busy all day with these fish.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports lots of fluke around and getting bigger with roughly a 50 percent keeper ratio this past week. Charlie Vogt had a few of these keepers. Duck Point, Cedarhurst Yacht Club and buoy 9 off the Cement Block have been good areas on sand eel, squid or spearing. Big flounders are also being caught on worms and clam, but not much in quantity. Plenty of blues off Deb's Inlet through Rockaway Playland on umbrellas and single tubes. These are 3 to 15 pounders and they are feasting on sand eels. Bernie Haig and his sons Chris and Eric on two consecutive evenings this week had 30 blues in 3 hours on trolled bucktails, spoons or umbrellas. Below the blues it was possible to hook a bass. Please note that **Long Beach Sports Marina** will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays till Labor Day.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to say that his charters have been averaging 300 to 400 lbs. of big striped bass every trip, fish in the low 30s on bunker spoons. The big bass are gone from the Rockaways but a few are being taken from the beach at night on chunked bunker. A few have been taken under the Atlantic Beach Bridge on live bunker and live herring. The area east of Deb's through Jone's Inlet appears to be loaded with mixed blues from 2 to 15 lbs., hitting the spoons best.

These fish are feeding on bunker.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** reports that the blacks have diminished but the bass are in. Sunday morning at the Atlantic Beach Bridge Tony Mozzeeo trolled white bucktails to produce a 26 lb. 2 oz. striper taken right in front of the station at the bridge. Good bluefishing 25 to 30' of water from 35th to 65th Street, from Long Beach to Lido on umbrellas and bunker spoons, fish from 3 to 13 lbs. Robert Corbelli on his boat Emme had a 12 lb. weak at Ocean Beach Sunday fishing sand worms. Lots of fluke in the bay and off the Silver Hole jetty, with fewer midgest being caught now.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle tells of some bluefish being caught on the outgoing tide off the North Channel Bridge. A 9 lb. 8 oz. striper was caught by Robert Hagel fishing a whole bunker off the North Channel Bridge at 5 a.m. during the week. Monday morning just before we called for this report, a 25 lb. striper was weighed in by Eddie Morin fishing a live eel at dead low tide under the Marine Pkwy Bridge. Some flounder and blackfish being caught off the North Channel Bridge on worm and clam.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Butch of the **Zephyr** says that he is now switching to fluke everyday. The last few days he's taken fluke on the red and black side of Ambrose and also off Rockaway, fish 1½ to 4½ lbs. Keepers are running from 1 to 8 per man depending on the individual's skill. Sunday saw roughly 150 keeper fluke on the boat with very few throwbacks. Butch says it looks like a very good fluke season coming up. Catches are on sand eels and squid.

Stella Maris Tackle tells of lots of bluefish off the Breezy Point Jetty and on diamond jigs and umbrellas at the Tin Can. More and bigger fish are moving up from Barnegat. Flounders and blacks are being taken in Jamaica Bay at any rocky area for the blackfish. Fluke, mostly keepers at Sandy Hook and off Reis Park in decent numbers.

The area's blackfish sharpie, **Pilot II** tells of continued fabulous blackfishing all through this past week and weekend off the Jersey rocks with a very good sea bass catch thrown in Sunday. Walter Lee had an 11¼ lb. black this week and a 12 pounder was also taken. Fish are averaging 1 to 4 lbs. on fiddlers, sea bass up to 3 lbs. on clam and squid. The boat had its first porgy this weekend.

The open boat **America** has been fishing locally and doing best on blackfish on local rockpiles and wrecks. Fish are mixed sizes and are hitting fiddler crabs best.

The **Flamingo III** is now switching to bluefish officially everyday. The skipper says the fish are persistent and consistent, showing and being caught every day running from 2½ up to mediums.

HOWARD BEACH

Capt John on the charter boat **Thermocline** reports his bluefish charters have been scoring nicely on umbrellas. Plenty of blackfish around at any rocky areas and also at the bridges on fiddlers. John has been working the Tin Can Grounds for the blues.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports lots of 3 to 4 lb. blues at Princess Bay for boats trolling or chunking. Small blues, weaks and bass in the back of Great Kills Harbor on tin. Fluking picking up in Great Kills Harbor from the jetty and beach side on sand eels and spearing. Large bluefish off the storm sewers on both bait and on plugs. A few bass on plugs off Cliff St., fish up to 14 lbs. Mixed tommy cod, eels, blacks and flounder at the 17th, 12th and 18th Street piers.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

AP White Bait Shop tells of good weakfishing nights and days but running hot and cold due to mucho boat traffic. Blues 3 to 6 lbs. at Hay Beach Point mostly on diamond jigs of the 4 to 6 oz. variety. Good flounder catches continue east of Gardiner's and in the Sound flounders are fair at Greenhill. This is on worms and clam. Blackfishing remains good on the east side of Gardiner's, off Plum Island and along the Sound Beach, fish up to 6 lbs. Fluking has been slow but porgies are good for this early in the season in Peconic Bay and off Gardiner's. Charter boat **Nancy Ann** had a very good catch of blues over the weekend, fish running 3 to 6 lbs. on jigs. The boat had 65 blues Saturday and 75 Sunday. The weaks were spotty but should improve once they school up.

Brand X had an excellent catch of weakfish Friday night but Saturday and Sunday the fish were spooked by the armada of private boats. The thing to do is to get off by yourself and work these fish with squid, worms, jelly worms, Mr. Twisters or Salty Dogs...all are working.

The **Peconic Star** has been doing a fairly good job through the weekend on flounders and porgies off Gardiner's.

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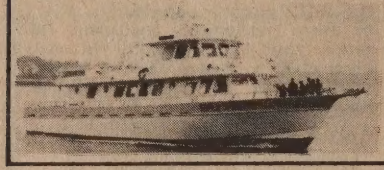

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This huge early season doormat of 17 lbs. was landed by Santos Matos of the Bronx. He took it while weakfishing between buoys 14 and 17 in Peconic Bay. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

Art White at **A.P. White's Bait and Tackle** said that the **Nancy Ann,** the **Tuna,** and other boats were drifting and catching until they were loaded with bluefish off Hay Beach. The open boats did well on weaks until Saturday night when weekend traffic took its toll. There are more porgies around than ever before, and the **Peconic Star** is doing a big job on mixed sizes of scup with occasional 1½ to 2 lb. fish mixed in. Art is now selling bucktails and eels like crazy so there must be some bass around Orient as well. Big flounder are still available down Gardiner's Way in Tobaccolot.

SOUTHOLD

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt** told us that there was a dropoff in the Middle Grounds porgy action off Buoy 18 and off the Steps between buoys 17 and 18. Weakfish were very spotty, but still available at the top of the tide off the Greenlawns as well as on the bottom of the tide in the Brickyard on squid. There was a pick of fluke off buoy 15 and the Greenlawns with blues showing off the Oyster Factory for diamond jiggers. Some of the blues ran over 5 lbs. Fishermen off Orient were still beating the devil out of the flounder off the traps East of the station with most 3/4 to 1½ lb. fish in the catches. These fish may stay around until people get tired of fishing for them.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria at **captain Marty's** mentioned good action off buoy 25 in the South Race for porgies and occasional weakfish, but said the porgies were starting to run smaller now. Best fishing seems to be on the last of the incoming, and there have been a few complaints of bluefish in recent days.

Blowfish seem to be mixed with the porgies as well.

Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's** said regulars at Rose's Grove were doing best by dropping the anchor and picking up buckets of porgies with a few weaks mixed in. There were "too damned many boats around" over the weekend for good results, however. Weaks as well as porgies were shading down in sixes with 5 to 6 lb. fish the tops in most catches. Squid was now preferred.

AQUEBOGUE

Nick, behind the counter at **Warren's Tackle Center** said the Bay was still producing porgies and weaks, with some blues showing at the mouth of the Peconic River. In the Sound, weaks were showing off Horton's Point while very good blackfishing off Roanoke for fish up to 7½ lbs. also made news. Bass in the Sound go anywhere from 14" to 22", and there even seems to be a smattering of fluke off Kenny's and Horton's.

MATTITUCK

Charlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** said that porgy fishing was on the upswing with catches up to 30 fish. Most of the fish were 1/2 lb. class, but one 3 lber. got lost among the catch over the weekend. There was a catch of six fluke off Mattituck Inlet, with one subdoormat of nearly 6 lbs. taken on squid and sand eels. Blackfishing is excellent with a few small sea bass mixed in. Soft baits are preferred, and 20 to 40 fish catches are typical over rocky bottom.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** tells of a 7 lb. 6 oz. fluke taken in Noyac Bay at buoy 17 on jelly worm/squid combos A few blowfish have been taken. It has not been a super week due to the excessive boat traffic in the bay. Weakfish are being caught from the surf at Long Beach at night by plug casters. Some porgies at buoy 18 and off Gleason Point at the ferry slip. These are fish up to 2¾ lbs.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** says skiff customers are doing pretty good on weakfish and are also catching tiderunners at Smith's Cove and Noyac Bay. This is on squid and on hi/lo rigs and also on jelly worms and sand worms. Porgies are being pulled at buoy 11 and NW Harbor on clam and squid. Flounders are being caught at Cedar Point on worms. One rental boat with 3 anglers nestled inside, from Paterson NJ, caught well over 100 porgies Saturday.

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** reports that the night weakfishing remains excellent and that blues and porgies are also caught on the same drop with the weakfish. Catches are

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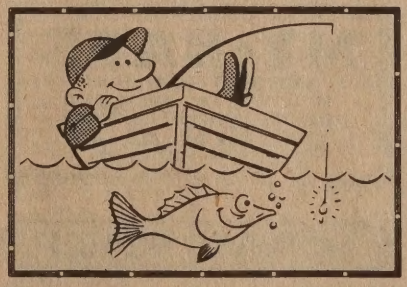

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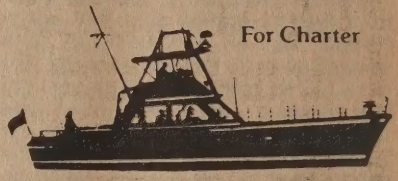

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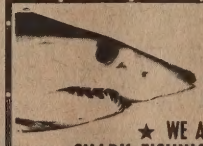

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averaging 2 to 6 weaks a man per night. Friday night and Saturday night were slower due to the heavy boat traffic during the daylight hours. Weaks are hitting squid on hi/lo rigs as well as sand worms and jelly worms. Flounders are about finished at Gardiner's and the skipper is now switching over to porgies, blacks and weakfish for the day trips, concentrating on the porgies and blacks. The boat's first fluke trip for the season will be June 16th and the boat will be fishing fluke every Tuesday and Wednesday starting that date.

Charter boat **Sundance** tells us that the bass are here in the Sag Harbor area! Capt Bob has been finding fish both day and night, mainly on umbrellas. Fish are running 3 to 15 lbs. Weaks and blues can occasionally be found along with the bass. A 14 lb. weak was taken on Tuesday's charter. A hot area for weakfish has been buoy 16. Cod and pollack are responding to both bait and diamond jigs for charters working SE of Block. The boat's first shark trip is coming up this Saturday.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKFISH

MT. SINAI HBR.

Dick's Bait and Tackle reported bottom fishing in peak form with big flounder and humpback porgies both being taken along the beach at Miller Place on worms. Good blackfishing with both worms and fiddlers effective, but the worms having the edge, according to Dick.

Ralph's mentioned porgies over 2 lbs. mixed with scup from 1/2 lb. on up. Most of the action was on skimmers, and chum produced very well. One week ago last Saturday, Ralph saw the biggest blackfish taken into the station during the last 22 years; the fish was a 15¾ lb. monster taken near the Old Sow off Rocky Point on a green crab. There are some weaks around in evening and early mornings.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station said that blackfish were now plentiful off Oldfield as well as Mount Misery. Hard bait was best. Drifters were accounting for weekday weakfish in the early mornings off Miller Place on live worms or squid strips. Worm trollers had picked up stripers from the Narrows of Conscience Bay, while a few blues to 9½ lbs. were also mentioned. Everything is around right now!

The open boat **Aqua-Gem** reported that the blackfishing was really excellent and that there were still flounder with them. Mixed sizes of porgies were also starting to show. For the blacks, crabs were a must over hard bottom because of bergalls, but sand worms produced better over the gravel bottoms. Tautog were running as large as 7 to 10 lbs.

KINGS PARK

From **O.K. Bait and Tackle** we learned that I. Chinelis, Pedro Mercedo and Julio Ruiz hauled a mixed catch of nearly 100 porgies and flounder into the station. John Kapp managed 30 tautog to 5 lbs., while Steve Costadura and Andy Plocharczyk had a good haul of flatties and porgies off Callahan's on sand worms.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's** told us of 11-year-old Gavin Donnelly who took a 7 lb. 14 oz. taugog fishing off Eaton's Can 13. Boats in Valley Grove are doing a job on weakfish with straw berry jelly worms, but weekdays are far better than weekends. Boatmen off Lilco are managing about five bass among every 20 fish, with jointed, bluebacked, 4½" Rebels the best lures. A few blues in the five pound class have fallen to umbrellas.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle said that John Munno accounted for two bass of 22 and 23 lbs., worm trolling at Valley Grove while Eaton's, Crab Meadow, and Asharoken were producing weaks on Rebels, Tri-Fins and bucktails. Fishermen were murdering blackfish on fiddlers with the biggest fish of the week weighed at 8 lbs. Best weak of the week taken off Diamond Point went 10¼.

George at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** said that the place to go for the blackfish was Black Can 13 off Eaton's with catches over 30 fish not unusual. Weakfish action by boat was a bit slow, still, but Lloyds Point was yielding a few fish. There were also some blues in the 4-6 lb. range, and some porgies, 3/5 lb. stuff, made a showing along Asharoaken.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** said the blackfishing was down slightly with strong tides in the local rips and 12 oz. of lead sometimes called for. The pool fish on Saturday was Woody McDonald's 6½ lber., while Dave Kanen of Muttontown pulled a 7½ lber. on Sunday to take the money. Fiddlers are preferred bait.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ PORGIES

GLEN COVE

The **Lady Lil II** called to say that fares are having decent blackfishing off Lloyd Neck most of the week. There's been a good showing of porgies in the area with a few flounder mixed in. Friday and Saturday nights there will be special weakfish trips at 6 p.m. Call for further details.

The **Glen Cove Sport Shop** spoke of super blackfishing off Pryble Pier on fiddlers. There is a very good run of decent weaks off Bayville on the Sound Side, with a few stripers mixed in. Tom George had a good 100 lbs. of fish this week. Best lures seem to be jig heads and strawberry worms, but there is a lot of shrimp around, so yellow Salty Dogs also score, as do small 6" root beer worms on jig heads (which seem to imitate the small sand eels in the area). Bass run up to 22"-24" with weaks running over 6 lbs.

CITY ISLAND

Capt Pete of the **North Star** reports super porgy catches Sunday, a real slaughter to the tune of 30 to 80 porgies a man from ½ to 1½ lbs. on sand worms off Smithtown. During the week flounders and blacks were the order of the day, but the porgies have appeared in such strength, that the boat will now be concentrating on these silvery sluggers.

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide III** tells us that he's been getting big flounders fishing off Smithtown. Porgies are there as well as blackfish. Customers yanked a lot of porgies Sunday from ½ to 1 lb. and they also had a sprinkling of blackfish up to 7 lbs. The fish are around in very good quantities says the skipper and he asked us to remind you that on the weekend the boat leaves at soon as it fills up, so either come down early on the weekends or else come and fish on weekdays, when it's less crowded to begin with.

From **Jack's Bait and Tackle** comes word that there are lots of blackfish on the incoming and outgoing water for those fishing hard baits, fiddlers and green crabs. Best fish of the recent run went 15 lbs. 11 oz.

City Island Bait and Tackle told us of catches of 2 to 6 lb. blacks in the New Rochelle and the Chimney Sweeps areas. There were some school bass around on Friday, with fish from shorts up to 21" in the Turtle Cove area. Worm fishermen

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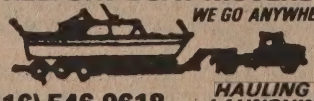

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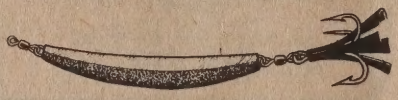

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and those working bucktails and swimmers all scored.

Don on the **Apache** provided lots of porgy and flounder action on 1/2 to 1 lb. fish in the Smithtown Bay area during the weekend. Best fishing during the week was on spawning blackfish off the mussel bars, but the boat has been careful about numbers because all of the fish are large females. Blacks run all the way from two to ten pounds. Incidentally, the best flounder of the week went an even 2 lbs.

NEW ROCHELLE

According to **John's Gun and Tackle** there are still plenty of 1/2 lb. flounder around, but the better bet for boat fishermen are the blackfish off Hart's Island and Huckleberry. Shore line action on the blacks has slowed. Clams and fiddlers are preferred baits. A few blues of 4-5 lbs. are showing in the Sound off Mamaroneck. These fish are taken by trollers and by accident by mackerel fishermen. Bass are only schoolies but big fish should fall to those fishing bunker and bunker chunks pretty soon.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

The surf around many parts of the Island came alive with fish this past week if one happened to be in the right place. For once, it seemed that more casters were where the action was, than were not. Unfortunately, I was not among those ranks. Having spent a fruitless night on the backside of Fire Island Saturday night made gathering Monday's reports all the more unbearable and led me to start thinking about taking up a more sane sport. Here's the way things shaped up around the Island.

Along western south shore beaches, that run of big bass continues with many fish in the 20-40 lb. class being taken on bunker chunks and large swimming plugs like the Atom 40 and Danny. Action is from Atlantic Beach through the Rockaways with the best fishing apparently to the west off of the many rock piles in the area. big blues are mixed in with the bass. Bernie Haag of **Long Beach Sports Marina**, who is a welcome source of reliable info at this end of the Island also knew that a couple of 30s came from the suds at Long Beach in recent days.

From another reliable source, came word that big weaks and bass to 40 lbs. had schools of herring pushed up in the wash at Malibu over the weekend.

On the other side of Jones Inlet, at West End Two, those same herring schools were faring no better as schools of blues averaging 5 to 7 lbs. rode herd on the baitfish for most of the week. According to Striper Surf Club member, Mike Kaland, the west end action built steadily from Tuesday night and was red hot from Thursday through Saturday. The choppers were not fussy and were readily striking tins after dark on Saturday.

Despite the wild bluefishing, Mike was more enthused about the accomplishment of fellow club member Mike Lynch who had his fill of blues and decided to try to drill out a striper on Saturday. Working an Atom 40 from one of the Ft. Tilden rock piles, Mike, who hails from Ozone Park, found what he was after. The 23 lb. 13 oz. striper that jumped on the big swimmer was his first point bass of the season.

Over at Democrat Pt. on Fire Island, a caster known as "Red Beard" took 3 weaks to 12 lbs. 3 oz. and a 9 lb. blue, this according to Lon Wanser, who checked the catch at his Seaford Tackle Shop. He also knew that a couple of local surfmen had been running over to fish the Sound side of Center Island where there has apparently been some decent weakfishing.

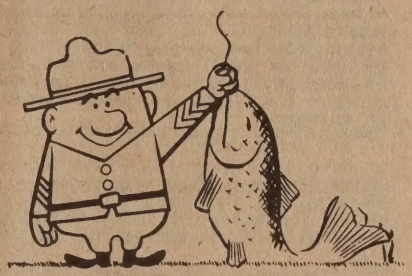
Thom of **Specks Bait and Tackle** out in Shinnecock told me that Long Beach (Noyac) continues to produce weaks despite the crowds.

On Saturday night, 15-year-old Paul Schwanemann and 14-year old Nicholas Costantini teamed up to take 11 weaks to 5 lbs. there. No news of anything happening along the ocean beaches however.

Montauk produced some respectable bass according to Johnny Kronuch Jr. He weighed a 25 lber. for Ted Shane while another caster took a pair of bass in the mid-20s. All 3 fish were taken after dark on RedFins at Jones. Before dark, poppers have been producing school fish along with an occasional larger bass. Sal Zamca of Centereach had the Light all to himself Saturday AM. Using a yellow darter, he had fish of 10, 15 and 25½ lbs. on the rocks before anyone else arrived.

The North Shore is apparently enjoying a good mix of school bass and weakfish. In Mt. Sinai, Dick of **Dick's Sporting Goods** described the action along the beach at Miller Place as the best in 15 years. Fishing from Thursday through Saturday produced lots of big weaks with many of the fish in the 8 to 9 lb. class. Largest Dick has seen come from the area was a 14 lber. A few bass are mixed in with the weaks with a 20 lber. being taken Friday night and an 18 lber. on Thursday. Dick could not get over the abundance of fish and bait along the beach. Despite all of the bait, most of the action is down deep with jelly worm/leadhead combos, Alou eels, Tri-Fin Sand Eel jigs and Shorty Hopkins producing most of the fish. Plenty of school bass continue to be taken along the beach near the Lilco power plant in Northport. Fellow Great South Bay Anglers Club Prexy Billy Bowman sampled some of this fishing one night last week and confirmed the reports that had been coming from the area. While a good number of the fish are shorts, there are a decent number of school fish available.

From **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** in Huntington came word of a catch of 5 weaks and a 5 lb. striper made by Steve Whelan at Caumsett on Friday. Of the action at Lloyd's Point, Ronnie described it as erratic with one night good and the next poor. In addition to the weaks, an occasional blue or bass are mixed in. Tom Gettinger drilled a pair of weaks from the Huntington Beach shore, also on Friday. Ronnie added that the C.S.H. Causeway continues to produce a few school bass with those fish now being taken all keepers from 3-5 lbs.



SURF FISHING:

(Continued from page 18.)

the tide.

So far in this article, the reader might come to the conclusion that this fishing is exclusively for the bottom fishermen. While it is true that the best results are achieved through the use of bait, anglers casting tin are rewarded with many fine weakfish. In fact, during the hours preceding total darkness most surfmen working the water's edge will be using tin. It would seem that tins such as the D5 or J8, since they resemble a sand eels in a general way, would be the basic lure in use. True, these lures do produce a large portion of the catch but tins which in no manner imitate these slender baitfish will produce surprising results. Kastmasters or Shorty Hopkins when dragged slowly along the bottom will often outproduce the baitfishermen before total darkness sets in. Tins such as these either in the chrome finish or the preferred nighttime colors of white or yellow probably would continue to yield fish but at this time the bottom fishermen start their activities in earnest thereby hindering anyone wishing to continue using artificials.

Whatever method of fishing one prefers, whether it be light tackle plugging, bottom fishing or slinging a tin into the high surf, Democrat Point has it all.

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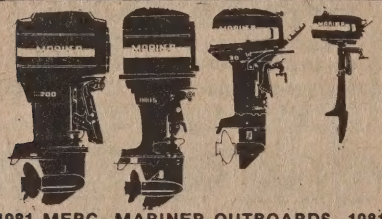

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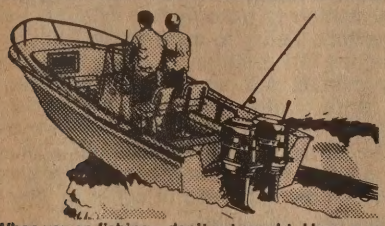

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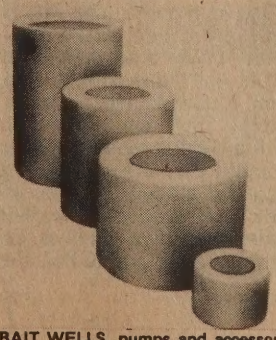

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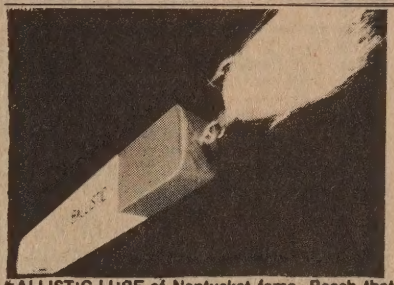

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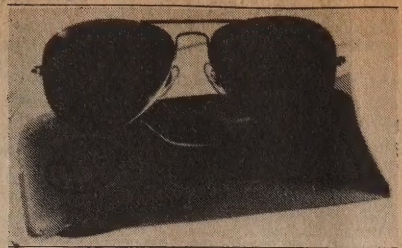

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Wholesale Marine Fasteners. Stainless, silicon bronze. Full line. Shop parts. O-Rings. Free catalog. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, New York 11951; 516-281-3366.

FISHING LOG—Pre-printed on 28 lb. Ledger, 75 pages, 5½x 8½ plastic bound in attractive blue covers. Contains all the important data to keep consistent accurate records. Price $3.98 + $1 post./handl. Send check or money order to: F. Flad, 147 Smith Avenue, Holbrook, N.Y. 11741.

SNAGAWAY LURE SAVE KITS. The Fisherman's Friend!

What is a **Snagaway Lure Saver Kit?** We all have snagged our lures on rocks, logs, weeds or stumps causing us to snap our line trying to retrieve our tackle.

Snagaway Lure Saver Kits are the answer to this problem. They are new, unique, different, and ready to go. With vise gripping action, it pulls your tackle and lures free from rocks, stumps, logs, weeds, etc. Save your money by retrieving your tackle and lures of all kinds, spinners, harness, live or artificial bait. Designed for either right or left handed fisherman, clips on to your belt and is ready for any emergency.

Each **SNAGAWAY KIT** contains; The revolutionary new **Snagaway Retriever** made of nickle plated steel, the **Snagaway Reel**, and 100 feet of 70 lbs. test, nylon braided line.

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITHOUT ONE!!
Fully Guaranteed.
Kits are available for $7.95 each plus $1.25 postage and handling from
J.G. ENTERPRISES
P.O. Box 623 Floral Park, New York 11002.
New York State residents add 7 % sales tax.
★ DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME ★

KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN!

EDITORIAL:
Legislation Will End Violence

(Continued from page 2.)

State Park is developed and declared open to the public.

3. The Department may issue permits to operate a pound trap within one mile of a state park under the jurisdiction of the Long Island State Park Commission where the owner of such a fish pound trap can demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction that such net was in operation at least thirty days prior to the effective date of this section. Such permit shall be non-transferable.

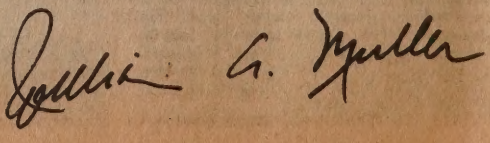
We suppose many people will choose to argue that this legislation is anti-commercial fishermen, but that is not the case. If it were the intention, then we would not have suggested the section to grandfather existing fish traps or to keep Napeague open for the time being to commercial activity. However, we need to recognize and accept a few realities. Conflict for space and resource is increasing between commercial and recreational fishermen. If the combatants do not have enough sense to stay away from each other, then they must be separated in the public interest. Since the parks are for recreation they should be set aside as the domain of the recreational angler. In other vast areas of the shore and open water there is less conflict because there is either less access for recreation or more expanses of water in which the interest groups can lose themselves from each other.

Do not be discouraged by the clause that states *"....at least thirty days prior to the effective date of this section."* A sudden rush of heretofore nonexistent fish traps will not be recognized as traditional. However, since nets are pulled and reset each year, provision may be made to protect the existing fish trap operators. Only traditional operations will be recognized for permit. That is the intent of the legislation and we state it now for the record.

Although the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction now over those lands under the water for a distance of one mile adjoining state parks, it does not have control over the water column. Therefore, the Commission was unable to resolve the conflict between commercial and recreational interests. This legislation will resolve the conflict by prohibiting gill nets, draggers, and haul seiners from operating in Park's jurisdiction.

One last point. The law is written in such a way that all enforcement officers in the state, from local departments, to the county departments, to the State police shall enforce this legislation when it becomes law.

It is not likely that this legislation will come up for a vote during this session. However, we will push for a companion bill to be introduced into the Assembly next fall and for its passage. Thus we are hopeful that this legislation will become law during the winter of 1981-82. We believe that once again the citizens of Long Island need to say thanks to Senator Owen Johnson for his help, vision, and willingness to help solve some very current and difficult problems involving recreational angling. We will keep you informed and when the time comes for you to send letters, make phone calls, and show up for public hearings, we know that we can count on you.



High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	10:05	10:25	10:50	11:10	10:50	11:10	11:40	11:55	1:00	1:50	12:55	1:30	10:00	10:20	6/4
FRI.	11:05	11:20	11:45	–	11:50	–	–	12:35	1:55	2:55	1:50	2:25	10:55	11:15	6/5
SAT.	–	12:00	12:10	12:45	12:05	12:50	12:50	1:35	3:00	3:55	2:45	3:25	11:45	–	6/6
SUN.	12:10	12:55	1:05	1:45	1:00	1:40	1:50	2:35	4:05	5:00	3:40	4:20	12:10	12:40	6/7
MON.	1:05	1:50	2:00	2:45	1:55	2:35	2:50	3:35	5:20	6:05	4:40	5:20	1:05	1:40	6/8
TUE.	2:00	2:45	3:00	3:50	2:45	3:25	3:50	4:40	6:25	7:05	5:40	6:15	2:00	2:35	6/9
WED.	2:55	3:35	4:00	4:45	3:40	4:20	4:55	5:35	7:30	7:55	6:40	7:10	3:00	3:30	6/10
THUR.	3:45	4:30	4:55	5:35	4:35	5:15	5:55	6:25	8:25	8:50	7:35	8:00	3:55	4:25	6/11

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Maslic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

6/5	5:25	8:32
6/6	5:25	8:32
6/7	5:25	8:33
6/8	5:24	8:34
6/9	5:24	8:34
6/10	5:24	8:35
6/11	5:24	8:35

Moonrise/Moonset

6/5	8:40AM	11:36PM
6/6	9:45AM	—
6/7	10:50AM	12:19AM
6/8	11:53AM	12:56AM
6/9	12:54PM	1:28AM
6/10	1:53PM	1:56AM
6/11	2:51PM	2:23AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
6/2	6/9	6/17	6/25

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.
The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	7:20	**1:10**	8:00	**1:45**
Fri.	8:20	**2:15**	9:00	**2:45**
Sat.	9:30	**3:20**	10:00	**3:45**
Sun.	10:20	**4:15**	10:55	**4:40**
Mon.	11:20	**5:10**	11:50	**5:35**
Tues.	—	**6:00**	12:10	**6:25**
Wed.	12:40	**6:40**	12:50	**7:05**
Thurs.	1:20	**7:20**	1:30	**7:40**

Father's Day Gifts!

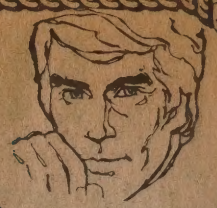
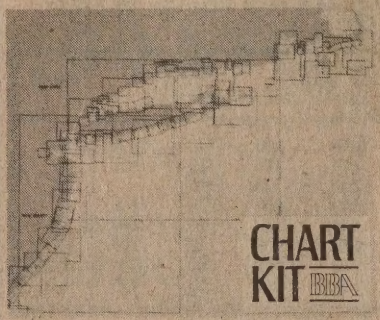


CHART KIT REGION 3
(New Edition)

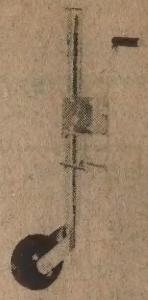


Contains 90 charts from Cape May, N.J. along the coast of N.Y. and L.I. & Conn. to Block Island & Nantucket. Full scale. Complete Loran C - Useable for navigation. Update information to Feb. 1981. Save over $200. on charts, used by U.S. Coast Guard. Periodic updates sent to you 17"x22" book.
List $39.95.
Clear Vinyl Case $5.45 *Sale* **$26.90**

MARINE BINOCULARS

Due to being encased in black rubber armor which increase its ruggedness & moisture resistance no case is required. Excellent for use in low visibility situations. 7x50 wide angle center focus (420 ft.) - Able to see details that are hidden to most binoculars.
Swift #781
List $122.00 *Sale* **$69.00**

TRAILER TONGUE JACK



Heavy duty product features recessed gear rack, heavy duty worm gear drive with 400 lb. tongue capacity and an offset swivel caster assembly with poly wheel. Finished in zinc plate & black enamel. Wt. 17 lbs. 10 oz. A safe & strong unit.
D/L Black Jack
#6324
List $59.10 *Sale* **$35.00**

WE HAVE GIFT CERTIFICATES

POWER WINCH LOADS ANY TRAILERABLE BOAT

Quality engineering Easily detached from trailer for safe keeping. Plugs into 12 volt system. Very easy to use, adds safety & pleasure to boating.

Power Winch Model #	Boat Load Capacity	List	*Sale*
712	4,000 lbs.	$289.00	**$155.00**
812	6,000 lbs.	$345.00	**$195.00**
912	10,000 lbs.	$389.00	**$220.00**

TRAILER COMBINATION LIGHTS

Designed with a clean look that compliments any trailer. 2 extra connections for hook-up of other lights. Combination lights meet D.O.T. requirement for stop, tail, turn signal, etc.

	List	*Sale*
Anderson # (Black Housing)		
E440 - No. Lic. Illum.	$6.95	**$3.99**
E 440L - W/Lic. Illum	$7.50	**$4.30**

MARINE PORTABLE TOILET

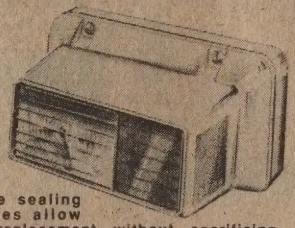
Completely self-contained operates on its own clear water without hook-up to water or power - easy to use. Stows out of the way. Light, compact, odor-free. Includes stainless steel hold down brackets. 3 gal. tank capacity. Hgt. 13", width 14½", depth 16½", wgt. 13½ lbs. Mansfield SaniPottie #944PC.
List $79.00 *Sale* **$47.88**

6 GALLON PORTABLE FUEL TANK

Sale
$14.88

Seamless, one piece polyethylene construction reduces the chance of breakage or leakage. Does not rust, corrode or dent like metal. Easy to stow & carry. Exceeds standards of Boating Industry Assoc. (B.I.A.)
List $26.75

SUBMERSIBLE TRAILER COMBINATION LIGHT



Unique sealing features allow bulb replacement without sacrificing watertite integrity. Bulbs mounted in rubber are isolated from shock and vibration. Meet D.O.T. requirements. Lexan lens, s/s screws, flex. rubber housing. Worthy of the name Submariner.

Anderson #450 - No Lic. Illum List $13.50 **$7.99**
#450L W/Lic. Illum. $13.90 **$8.29**

YACHT CHAIRS

List $34.95
Sale
$19.88

1" aluminum frame. Walnut stained and varnished hardwood arms. Water-resistant seat & back, non-skid tipped legs. Seat height 16" folds for easy storage. Red or blue.
Wallace #CAP 100

Sale ends June 20, 1981

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(Between Oceanside & Long Beach)

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(516) 431-0399
HRS. 8AM-6PM Mon./Sat. • Thurs. & Fri. 'till 9PM

★BABYLON★
260 E. MAIN ST. (Montauk Hwy.), BABYLON 11702
(516) 422-3300
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FROM A TACH TO AN ANCHOR•EST. 1932•MAIL & PHONE ORDERS ACCEPTED•WE SHIP U.P.S. •MOST MAIL ORDERS SENT U.P.S. WITHIN 24 HRS.